

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

X

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : 20-CR-00390(ENV)

-against- : United States Courthouse
: Brooklyn, New York

JAVIER AGUILAR, : Tuesday, January 16, 2024
: 10:00 a.m.

Defendant.

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TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR JURY TRIAL
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ERIC N. VITALIANO
UNITED STATES SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE

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24 Proceedings recorded by computerized stenography. Transcript
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1 (In open court - jury not present.)

2 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

3 (Judge ERIC N. VITALIANO entered the courtroom.)

4 THE COURT: The court is now open. The Honorable
5 Eric N. Vitaliano is now presiding.

6 Case on the calendar is USA versus Aguilar, case
7 number 20-CR-390 on for a jury trial.

8 Will the attorneys please note their appearance,
9 beginning with Government counsel.

10 MR. LAX: Good morning, Your Honor.

11 Jonathan Lax, Matthew Galeotti, Clayton Solomon,
12 Derek Ettinger, Hunter Smith and Peyton Jefferson, here on
13 behalf of the Government.

14 THE COURT: And good morning to you, Mr. Lax, and
15 your table.

16 MR. KOFFMANN: Good morning, Your Honor.

17 Daniel Koffmann, Michael Packard, William Price,
18 William Weinreb, Gabriella Trevino and Raymond McLeod, here on
19 behalf of Javier Aguilar, who he is present in court.

20 THE COURT: And welcome to you, Mr. Koffmann, and
21 your table and to Mr. Aguilar.

22 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: We also have two standby
23 Spanish interpreters who need to note their appearances for
24 the record and also need to be sworn.

25 Please raise your right hand, both of you.

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1 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will well
2 and truly interpret the proceedings now before the Court, so
3 help you God?

4 INTERPRETER ORRANTIA: I do.

5 INTERPRETER GOTLER: I do.

6 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you.

7 Please state your name for the record.

8 INTERPRETER ORRANTIA: My name is Dagoberto
9 Orrantia.

10 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please spell your last name.

11 THE INTERPRETER: O-R-R-A-N-T-I-A.

12 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you.

13 INTERPRETER GOTLER: Marcia, M-A-R-C-I-A, Gotler,
14 G-O-T-L-E-R, on standby for the Government witness.

15 THE COURT: Good morning to both of you and welcome
16 to both of you. Your talents are much appreciated.

17 INTERPRETER GOTLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 INTERPRETER ORRANTIA: Thank you, sir.

19 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All parties are present,
20 including defendant.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 Mr. Lax.

23 MR. LAX: We are ready to proceed, Your Honor. I am
24 happy to bring in the witness and I can resume at the podium,
25 if that's all right with the Court.

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1 THE COURT: And, Mr. Koffmann?

2 MR. KOFFMANN: We're ready to go, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Then we're ready to go. Bring in
4 Mr. Pere and Mr. Villanueva will bring in the jury.

5 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, this is William Price at
6 defense table.

7 Just for the record, in the rare prospect that there
8 might be objections, the voice you will be hearing is mine.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Appreciate that, Mr. Price.

10 (The witness entered and resumed the stand.)

11 (Jury enters.)

12 THE COURT: Be seated, please.

13 Counsel will stipulate that the jury is present and
14 properly seated.

15 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

16 MR. KOFFMANN: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Thank you, counsel.

18 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, welcome back.

19 Hopefully you enjoyed the four-day time off between the time
20 we were here last and today.

21 We want to thank the jury for struggling through
22 this morning. The snow made travel difficult and coupled with
23 some, apparently, serious subway service interruptions, it
24 took us some time to get together, but your efforts are very
25 much appreciated by all of us and we look forward to moving

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1 the trial along as quickly as we can.

2 As you will recall, Mr. Antonio Pere was on the
3 stand. We were at the beginning of Mr. Lax's direct
4 examination, and we shall continue from there.

5 Mr. Lax.

6 MR. LAX: Thank you, Your Honor.

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8 (Continued on the following page.)

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1 **ANTONIO PERE,**

2 called as a witness by the Government, having been
3 previously duly sworn/affirmed by the Courtroom Deputy,
4 was examined and testified further as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continuing)

6 BY MR. LAX:

7 Q Good morning, Mr. Pere.

8 A Good morning.

9 Q And I'll remind you that you're still under oath.

10 A Yes.

11 Q Also, we have a standby Spanish interpreter if necessary.
12 But if it's okay with you, we'll continue in English.

13 A Yes, it's okay.

14 Q When we left off last week, we were speaking about
15 individuals who participated in the scheme with you and the
16 defendant involving the fuel oil deal?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You mentioned that there was someone from whom you and
19 your brother received money in connection with that deal.

20 Who was that?

21 A Lionel Hanst.

22 Q And he had two companies, what were those companies?

23 A Lion Oil and Zanza Oil.

24 MR. LAX: So I am going to affix them to the board
25 now.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 For the record, I've added in the second column
2 Lionel Hanst, Lion Oil and Zanza Oil.

3 You also said that you had, I think it was two
4 nicknames.

5 What were those nicknames?

6 A For Lionel Hanst?

7 Q For yourself.

8 A Oh, for myself. Colorado and Tuco.

9 MR. LAX: All right. So I'll affix Tuco and
10 Colorado.

11 Q And we discussed three companies; that EIC, OIC and OPV.

12 Do you recall those?

13 A I do.

14 MR. LAX: All right. I am going to add those at the
15 bottom of the third column.

16 BY MR. LAX:

17 Q We also spoke about someone named Mauricio Samaniego?

18 A Yes, we did.

19 Q And where did he work?

20 A He worked at PetroEcuador.

21 Q What was his title there?

22 A International trade manager.

23 Q All right. And I showed you a photograph of him last
24 week.

25 MR. LAX: So, I am going to add him to the final

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 column.

2 Q And there was another person that worked at PetroEcuador
3 that we spoke about, José Augusto.

4 What was José Augusto's role in the government?

5 A José Augusto worked at the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and
6 also at the presidency, he was Secretary General. At the
7 beginning in the hydrocarbons ministry, he was advisor to the
8 minister and then he became minister.

9 Q All right.

10 MR. LAX: So I am going to add him to the final
11 column as well.

12 Q Were there any nicknames for Mauricio Samaniego?

13 A Tuqueado.

14 Q What does that mean?

15 A It means strong.

16 Q I am going to add Tuqueado.

17 Were there any nicknames for José Augusto?

18 A Pepin.

19 MR. LAX: I'll add Pepin.

20 And finally for identification, I am going to add a
21 sticker to the board identifying it as Government Exhibit 50.

22 BY MR. LAX:

23 Q All right. Mr. Pere, I'd like to show you a few other
24 photos. These are not in evidence.

25 MR. LAX: If we could show the witness and the

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 parties and the Court Government Exhibit 3, please.

2 BY MR. LAX:

3 Q Do you recognize the person shown in Exhibit 3?

4 A No.

5 Q I'd like to show you Government Exhibit 4.

6 MR. LAX: None of these are in evidence.

7 Q Do you recognize the person in Government Exhibit 4?

8 A No.

9 MR. LAX: Government Exhibit 6, please.

10 Q Do you recognize the person in Government Exhibit 6?

11 A No.

12 MR. LAX: Government Exhibit 7.

13 Q Do you recognize that person?

14 A No, I don't.

15 MR. LAX: Government Exhibit 9.

16 Q Do you recognize that person?

17 A No.

18 MR. LAX: Government Exhibit 11.

19 Q Do you recognize that person?

20 A No.

21 MR. LAX: Government Exhibit 16.

22 Q Do you recognize the person shown in Government
23 Exhibit 16?

24 A No.

25 Q We've spoken -- shifting gears a little bit, we've spoken

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 about PetroEcuador a little bit.

2 What is PetroEcuador?

3 A PetroEcuador is the Ecuadorian oil company. It's
4 state-owned.

5 Q What does it do?

6 A Well, PetroEcuador is in charge of doing explorations,
7 production of oil. Also, refining of oil, exporting oil.
8 They also -- well, actually they sell oil and they buy
9 products. So, they do -- when I say products, like gasoline
10 or diesel. So, they import also products.

11 Q You've referred so far to two people who held the title
12 the international trade manager.

13 What does the international trade manager do?

14 A The international trade manager is in charge of the
15 exports that PetroEcuador exports. Like I said, oil and fuel
16 oil mainly; and also, purchases gasoline and diesel from
17 other -- I mean from other companies. So, the international
18 trade manager is the person that is in charge of executing
19 both operations.

20 Q Aside from the international trade manager, are you
21 familiar with the organizational structure of PetroEcuador
22 generally?

23 A In general, yes.

24 Q Could you describe it?

25 A Well, it has a board that it's presided by the Minister

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 of Hydrocarbons. The Board members are representatives of
2 other government entities. Then there is the CEO or general
3 manager of PetroEcuador. And you also have under him
4 approximately three main units. One which is production; the
5 other one that has to do with exports and imports, which is
6 the area we were or the department we were talking about; and
7 the other one that does the refining.

8 Q You've mentioned some of the products that PetroEcuador
9 deals with, diesel and gasoline.

10 What are those used for in Ecuador?

11 A Oh, and I forgot mention, I'm sorry, LPG, gas.

12 Q Okay. So let's start with LPG.

13 What is LPG used for in Ecuador?

14 A LPG is liquified petroleum gas. It's the gas used for
15 burning stoves and cooking and heating water in Ecuador. It
16 is a very, very important product because it's widely used.

17 Q What about diesel and gasoline, what are those used for?

18 A Well, diesel mainly for industries, for heavy equipment
19 and heavy transportation, big trucks mainly. And gasoline, of
20 course, for automobiles.

21 Q We've spoken about fuel oil.

22 What is fuel oil?

23 A Fuel oil is a product that comes out of the refineries.
24 When you refine oil, there is some byproduct which is mixed
25 with some chemical and it becomes Fuel Oil Number 6.

1 Q What is fuel oil used for?

2 A It is used for producing energy in thermoelectric plants,
3 and also for -- as a fuel for vessels I understand.

4 Q Now, in connection with PetroEcuador, we've also
5 discussed the Ministry of Hydrocarbons.

6 What is the Ecuadorian Ministry of Hydrocarbons?

7 A Well, the ministry is in charge of setting the strategy
8 for the oil sector for -- it's also responsible for setting
9 some norms for the sector. And -- and as Chairman of the
10 Board of PetroEcuador, of course, he has a very important role
11 in -- in the strategy of PetroEcuador.

12 Q How does the role of the Ministry of Hydrocarbons compare
13 to that of PetroEcuador?

14 A Can you ask that again? I'm sorry.

15 Q How does the Ministry of Hydrocarbons compare to
16 PetroEcuador in terms of what they do?

17 A Okay. The minister of hydrocarbons is really a position
18 appointed by the president, as it's like a secretary of, let's
19 say, transportation here. And, again, it's responsible for
20 the general guidelines and it's responsible for coordinating
21 actions with all the other secretaries of state. And
22 PetroEcuador is under him, and it's really a -- a public
23 company. I mean it works independently. So, yeah,
24 PetroEcuador is executing what at the high level is being set.

25 Q I am going to shift gears a little bit now, Mr. Pere.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 We've talked about so far at a high level your
2 participation in a scheme that began in or about 2015 with the
3 defendant and others in connection with a fuel oil contract.

4 Was that the first time that you, sir, participated
5 in a scheme like that?

6 A No.

7 Q When was the first time?

8 A The first time was in -- in around 2010 in a exchange
9 program of oil for products.

10 Q Was there a particular company involved in that?

11 A Yes. The company was Trafigura.

12 Q Did the defendant have anything to do with that deal?

13 A No.

14 Q So, what is Trafigura?

15 A Trafigura is one of the largest commodity traders, oil
16 traders in the world.

17 Q And how did the scheme involving Trafigura begin?

18 A Well, it began when Nilsen Arias was named international
19 trade manager at PetroEcuador. And the president had
20 established that it was better for PetroEcuador to do business
21 with state-owned companies from other countries directly.

22 So, if the country, PetroEcuador did that, then
23 there was no need to go through tender processes, public
24 tenders. And Trafigura used a company called ANCAP,
25 A-N-C-A-P, from Uruguay, as a fronting for this exchange of

1 crude oil for diesel and gasoline.

2 Q Were bribes paid in connection with that deal?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Who to?

5 A Nilsen Arias.

6 Q And who paid those bribes?

7 A Those bribes were paid by Trafigura through a company in
8 Uruguay, and then to one of my companies, and then to Nilsen
9 Arias' companies.

10 Q Did you pay Nilsen Arias directly in connection with that
11 deal?

12 A Yes.

13 Q How were the payments to you calculated in connection
14 with the Trafigura scheme?

15 A It was X amount of cents per barrel of oil exported.

16 Q And approximately how much in bribes were paid to
17 Mr. Arias in connection with the Trafigura deal?

18 A 200,000, approximately.

19 Q Dollars?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You mentioned someone last week named Francisco Acosta.

22 Did he have any participation in this deal?

23 A Yes. He -- first of all, he introduced me to Nilsen
24 Arias. And second, there were some payments that were made to
25 Francisco Acosta or accounts related to him, and he also had a

A. Perez - direct - Lax

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1 benefit, an economic benefit from the contract.

2 Q In addition to Trafigura, you participated in other
3 similar schemes?

4 A Yes.

5 Q With what companies?

6 A With a company called Gunvor, G-U-N-V-O-R.

7 Q Any others?

8 A And with Vitol.

9 Q Let's talk about, let's talk about Gunvor.

10 For that scheme, did the defendant have anything to
11 do with that?

12 A No.

13 Q What is Gunvor?

14 A Gunvor is another trader, one of the largest traders in
15 the world for oil.

16 Q Approximately when did the scheme involving Gunvor begin?

17 A 2012, 2013 -- 2012.

18 Q Is that when your participation in that scheme began?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And for approximately how long did you participate in
21 that scheme?

22 A Since 2012 until 2019.

23 Q How did the Gunvor scheme begin, how did your
24 participation in the scheme begin?

25 A Well, Ecuador had decided to, like I said before, that it

1 was better, the president had decided that it was better to
2 sign between, sign contracts between state-owned companies and
3 started seeking, I started seeking or looking for a company
4 that can do that. And I was introduced to Ray Kohut from
5 Gunvor. After meeting him, I also met other people from
6 Gunvor and started contacts through Gunvor with a Chinese
7 state-owned company called UNIPEC.

8 Q All right. Let me ask you a couple of follow-up
9 questions.

10 Ray Kohut, who is Ray Kohut?

11 A Ray Kohut is somebody that worked with -- worked for
12 Gunvor.

13 Q And what was his role at Gunvor?

14 A He was in charge of developing new markets. I believe
15 that was his title.

16 Q In addition to you and Ray Kohut, who else participated
17 in the scheme involving Gunvor?

18 A There was Antonio Marin from Gunvor, and Nilsen Arias
19 from PetroEcuador, Francisco Acosta.

20 Q Can you summarize Antonio Marin's role?

21 A Antonio Marin was a trader at Gunvor. He was responsible
22 for -- for buying and selling oil at Gunvor, a trader.

23 Q What about your brother Enrique, was he involved?

24 A Yes, he was.

25 Q Were there contracts obtained as part of the scheme

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 involving Gunvor?

2 A Yes.

3 Q High level, could you describe those contracts?

4 A Well, those contracts stated that we were going to get
5 paid, that we were gonna get paid X amount of cents per barrel
6 of oil exported.

7 Q What do you mean by "we"?

8 A When I say "we," I'm referring to the whole group that I
9 just mentioned; Enrique, Nilsen, myself.

10 Q You mentioned that there was, I think you said a Chinese
11 company involved in that, UNIPEC.

12 What was UNIPEC's -- how did UNIPEC figure into
13 that?

14 A UNIPEC, it's one of the -- China's oil companies. And
15 since it was a state-owned company, was allowed to sign
16 contracts with PetroEcuador directly by negotiating directly
17 without having to participate in public tenders.

18 Q Can you summarize the contracting relationship?

19 A Between?

20 Q Between so far we've talked about PetroEcuador, UNIPEC
21 and Gunvor.

22 What was the contracting relationship?

23 A Well, PetroEcuador had in its contract would receive,
24 actually did receive loans at first from China, from a Chinese
25 bank, and PetroEcuador would pay that loan with oil.

1 Gunvor was the company that actually dealt with that
2 oil, did all the operations related to the oil. And that was
3 it. I mean the two companies together, UNIPEC was, again,
4 like in the case of the company from Uruguay that I mentioned
5 before, it was a fronting for Gunvor.

6 Q Did there come a time when there was another state-owned
7 entity involved in the Gunvor scheme?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What, what entity was that?

10 A It's PetroThailand, PTT.

11 Q What were the -- what was the product or products
12 involved in the Gunvor scheme?

13 A In the Gunvor was mainly oil, but there was some fuel oil
14 also.

15 Q When you say oil, do you mean a particular type?

16 A Crude oil.

17 Q And how many contracts were involved related to Gunvor?

18 A Three.

19 Q You mentioned something called a public tender before.

20 What's a public tender?

21 A A public tender is when PetroEcuador or the company, as a
22 matter of fact, wants to sell oil, there would be a public
23 gathering in which each company who wants to buy oil would
24 present a closed envelope with the price that they are willing
25 to pay. Then, in this case PetroEcuador would open the

A. Perez - direct - Lax

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1 envelopes and see which one had the best price for
2 PetroEcuador and assign that bid to that company.

3 Q Were any of the Gunvor deals public tenders?

4 A No.

5 Q How did the Gunvor deals differ from a public tender?

6 A It's different because Gunvor acted behind a state-owned
7 company, and state-owned companies were allowed to negotiate
8 directly with PetroEcuador.

9 Q Was there any particular term for that arrangement?

10 A There was a -- it was really a strategic alliance. It
11 was part of a strategic alliance signed by the company.

12 Q What is a strategic alliance?

13 A It's a document in which two state-owned companies agree
14 to cooperate with each other in different aspects of -- the oil
15 sector being one of them -- the international commerce.

16 Q Were you paid in connection with the Gunvor deals?

17 A Yes, I was.

18 Q How were your payments calculated?

19 A They were calculated on a basis of X amount per barrel.

20 Q When you say "X," why do you say X?

21 A Because at some point it was less, I believe 21 cents,
22 and later on it was higher.

23 Q How were you paid?

24 A I was paid by wire transfers made by Gunvor to one of the
25 companies that you mentioned before; EIC, OIC, in particular.

1 Q Did one of your companies have a contractual relationship
2 with Gunvor?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Can you describe that?

5 A The contractual relationship with Gunvor, it's -- it's a
6 contract that states that Gunvor would pay that commission per
7 barrel. And we, our companies – mentioning again OIC, EIC –
8 had the responsibility of doing many things for Gunvor like
9 marketing studies and general -- general responsibilities that
10 were established in that country -- contract, I'm sorry.

11 Q Were the services in those contracts actually performed?

12 A No.

13 Q Once one of your companies received money from Gunvor --
14 and let me ask, were you paid directly by Gunvor?

15 A Yes; Gunvor Singapore.

16 Q Once you or one of your companies was -- was paid, what
17 did you do with the money?

18 A I paid the people involved in the -- in the scheme by
19 wires --

20 Q Who --

21 A -- and also in cash.

22 Q Who?

23 A I paid Nilsen Arias. I paid Francisco Acosta. I paid
24 Ray Kohut. I paid later, when Nilsen left his position, I
25 paid the new person at that position, which was Mauricio

1 Samaniego. Also, José Augusto.

2 Q Approximately how much was paid to Arias in connection
3 with the Gunvor scheme?

4 A Maybe 8 million, 5 million-something, around those lines.

5 Q Are you familiar with a company called Sargeant Marine?

6 A Yes, I am.

7 Q What is Sargeant Marine?

8 A It's a company that sold asphalt.

9 Q Did you participate in a scheme involving Sargeant
10 Marine?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q Did the defendant have anything to do with that?

13 A No, he didn't.

14 Q When did you begin to participate in a scheme involving
15 Sargeant Marine approximately?

16 A The year was 2014, 2015.

17 Q How did it begin?

18 A Well, Nilsen Arias asked me to contact somebody in
19 Sargeant Marine, and I contacted through a person in Chile, a
20 gentleman whose name is Finocchi, Roberto Finocchi.

21 And there was an emergency in Ecuador because it
22 needed asphalt in a very -- needed to buy asphalt very fast.
23 I don't remember what problem Ecuador had at the time. So, I
24 got in touch with Mr. Finocchi and helped him participate in a
25 emergency contracting process in Ecuador with the help of

A. Perez - director - Law

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1 Nilsen Arias.

2 Q Was a contract obtained?

3 A I'm sorry?

4 Q Was a contract obtained?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Can you describe at a high level?

7 A It was a contract for the sale of -- I don't remember the
8 volume of asphalt. It was a short-term contract for the
9 delivery, and the contract specified certain characteristics
10 that the provider must have, which Sargeant Marine had.

11 Q And the provider here was who?

12 A Sargeant Marine.

13 Q Provided asphalt to PetroEcuador?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Were payments made to Nilsen Arias in connection with
16 that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q By who?

19 A By -- Sargeant Marine paid one of our companies. When I
20 say "our companies," Enrique and myself, and we paid Nilsen
21 Arias to an account designed by -- I mean directed by him.

22 Q What do you mean by that?

23 A Nilsen gave us a name of a company and accounts in order
24 for us to pay him.

25 Q Approximately how much was paid to Arias in connection

1 with the Sergeant Marine deal?

2 A Approximately \$200,000.

3 Q All right. Let's turn back to the scheme involving the
4 defendant and Vitol and fuel oil.

5 Approximately when did that scheme begin?

6 A Well, I met the defendant in 2015, and the purpose for
7 meeting him was to see -- to seek opportunities for doing
8 business with Vitol and PetroEcuador.

9 Q How did that meeting come about?

10 A Nilsen Arias introduced me to Xavier Rodriguez, and I met
11 for the first time with Xavier Rodriguez in Mexico. And in
12 that meeting I met the defendant, who was a friend or former
13 business partner of -- I mean Javier Aguilar and Xavier
14 Rodriguez, both.

15 Q Before we get to that, that meeting, did you have any
16 conversations with Nilsen Arias in anticipation of that
17 meeting?

18 A Yes, I did.

19 Q Can you describe those conversations?

20 A I would say two main topics. One, try to find
21 opportunities to do business with Vitol. And two, fix Vitol's
22 problems with PetroEcuador. At the time Vitol was
23 black-listed, which means he was not allowed to do business
24 with PetroEcuador. Those were the two main issues discussed.

25 Q Did you discuss any particular opportunities or potential

1 opportunities?

2 A The potential opportunity was for Vitol to sell gas.

3 Q What type of gas?

4 A LPG.

5 Q Before -- before this meeting, did you have conversations
6 with Nilsen Arias about his relationship with Xavier
7 Rodriguez?

8 A He said that Xavier Rodriguez was close to him and that
9 Xavier Rodriguez was close to the defendant.

10 Q What did you understand that to mean, being close to?

11 A For me, when somebody --

12 MR. PRICE: I'm going to object, irrelevant. No
13 foundation.

14 Your Honor, I'm objecting, irrelevant, no
15 foundation.

16 MR. LAX: Discussing his state of mind before he
17 goes into his first meeting with -- with the defendant.

18 THE COURT: I'll hear it. Let's not get too far
19 afield, Mr. Lax.

20 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

21 BY MR. LAX:

22 Q I just simply asked what you, Mr. Pere, understood when
23 Arias said that someone was close to?

24 A It meant to me that he can do business with him, manage
25 payments with him.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 Q Meaning what?

2 A Meaning that they were close enough that they can
3 coordinate and receive bribes.

4 Q Why not use Gunvor for potential LPG business?

5 A Diversification. We had our businesses with Gunvor and
6 we wanted to have another company like Gunvor, in this case
7 Vitol, to do other operations.

8 Q Let's turn now to that meeting.

9 Where was the meeting?

10 A The meeting was in Mexico City.

11 Q Where specifically in Mexico City?

12 A At the Marriott Hotel in Polanco.

13 Q And approximately when was the meeting?

14 A It was mid 2015.

15 Q Did you go alone?

16 A I went alone.

17 Q What happened once you got to the Marriott?

18 A When I got to the hotel, I met Xavier Rodriguez and we
19 talked for, I don't know, half an hour at the most.

20 Q Where did you meet Xavier Rodriguez?

21 A At the bar of the hotel.

22 Q So far, just the two of you?

23 A So far, yes. After that, Javier Aguilar came to -- to
24 the meeting at the -- at the bar. Actually, we moved to a
25 conference room to talk.

1 Q Before we get to that, can you describe your initial
2 conversation with Xavier Rodriguez at the bar?

3 A My initial conversation was, of course, a little social.
4 And then he described, he -- he mentioned that he was close to
5 Javier Aguilar, that he had dealings with Javier Aguilar
6 before. And, of course, we -- he talked about -- about Vitol
7 and the company and how good it was for commercialization of
8 LPG.

9 Q Was it significant to you that he said he was close to
10 the defendant or had dealings with him?

11 A For me, that meant that he had been paid before by Javier
12 Aguilar, being -- I'm not sure if Xavier Rodriguez at the time
13 was in PetroEcuador or the Ministry of Hydrocarbons, but he
14 came -- he was there on and off for many years.

15 Q Approximately, how long did you speak with Xavier
16 Rodriguez at the bar?

17 A About half an hour.

18 Q What happened after that?

19 A After that, Javier Aguilar arrived and we moved into a
20 conference room.

21 Q Can you describe the room?

22 A It was a small conference room. You enter the room,
23 there was a long table, maybe for eight people or so.

24 Q What happened once you got to the room?

25 A Well, I -- I got into the room. First, Xavier -- no, I'm

1 sorry. I got into the room first. I sat on the side of the
2 door. And then Xavier Rodriguez and Javier Aguilar came into
3 the room and sat, Xavier Rodriguez on my right side and Javier
4 Aguilar in front of me.

5 Q Can you describe how the defendant introduced himself?

6 A Just by name. He didn't talk much about the company. He
7 just mentioned his experience in LPG and that he had worked
8 for Trafigura before. And basically, he sold the company --
9 the company and his capacity to offer LPG to PetroEcuador in
10 good conditions.

11 Q When you say "the company," what do you mean by "the
12 company"?

13 A Vitol.

14 Q What else did you talk about?

15 A We talked about the problems that Vitol had with
16 PetroEcuador and how they can -- how they could be -- be
17 solved, so that Vitol could start doing business with
18 PetroEcuador again.

19 Q What problems were discussed?

20 A Well, Vitol had certain payments that, I think they were
21 penalties in -- in contracts with PetroEcuador before that had
22 to be paid to PetroEcuador, among other issues that had to be
23 solved.

24 Q Like what?

25 A I'm not sure, but -- I mean I cannot say exactly, but

A. Perez - director - Law

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1 there were documents that needed to be presented in order for
2 PetroEcuador to allow Vitol to do business.

3 Q Going, I guess, back a little bit in the meeting, how did
4 you introduce yourself?

5 A The main introduction had already been made by Xavier
6 Rodriguez, so I did not go into the details of who I am or who
7 I represented.

8 I highlighted my close relationship with Nilsen
9 Arias and also the experience I had in doing business with
10 PetroEcuador and Nilsen Arias, before referencing the Gunvor
11 deals.

12

13 (Continued on the following page.)

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A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continuing)

2 BY MR. LAX:

3 Q What did you say about that about, your closeness?

4 A I said that I was very close to Nilsen and that I was
5 able to take advantage of any opportunity that could arise in
6 PetroEcuador.

7 Q What did you mean by take advantage?

8 MR. PRICE: Objection. At this point what his
9 understanding is irrelevant as to what he meant.

10 THE COURT: I'm not following where you are going.
11 Do you want to explain at sidebar?

12 MR. LAX: He is speaking to the defendant.

13 THE COURT: And you're asking about what the
14 defendant said to him?

15 MR. LAX: I'm asking about what the witness said to
16 the defendant and what he meant by that?

17 THE COURT: As part of a communication?

18 MR. LAX: A face-to-face meeting.

19 MR. PRICE: The objection isn't what he said, but
20 the undisclosed what he meant. That's the objection.

21 THE COURT: I'm going to allow it, what his
22 understanding was of a conversation he had with the defendant.

23 A Could you ask the question again just like you did.

24 Q Yes. When you said you could take advantage to the
25 defendant, what did you mean by that?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 A That I was able to pay Nilsen Arias a bribe and take
2 advantage of any opportunity for selling products or buying
3 oil from PetroEcuador.

4 Q Were there any particular deals discussed at this meeting
5 or potential deals?

6 A Potentially selling LPG to PetroEcuador.

7 Q Can you describe that conversation, about the potential
8 deal to sell LPG to PetroEcuador?

9 A Well, the conversation -- during the conversation, Xavier
10 Rodriguez and Javier Aguilar mentioned how and in what state
11 was the contract or the contracts that allowed for another
12 company to sell LPG to PetroEcuador and how a new contract
13 could be signed, meaning when, what volume. They were better
14 informed than I was about those details.

15 Q What, if anything, did the defendant say about that
16 potential deal?

17 A He said that Vitol was extremely competitive in LPG,
18 which was his area of expertise.

19 Q Did you and the defendant and Xavier Rodriguez have any
20 discussions about a potential structure for that deal during
21 that meeting?

22 A I don't remember.

23 Q Were any other topics discussed during that meeting?

24 A In general, products, fuel oil -- I'm sorry, not fuel oil
25 at the time -- products and crude oil besides LPG saying that

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 PetroEcuador dealt with those products.

2 Q Approximately how long was that meeting?

3 A Less than an hour.

4 Q How did you get to Mexico City?

5 A I flew from Miami.

6 Q Do you recall how long you stayed in Mexico City for that
7 trip?

8 A One or two nights.

9 Q So at the end of that meeting, how did you, the
10 defendant, and Xavier Rodriguez leave things?

11 A Well, I gave Javier Aguilar a summary of the issues that
12 had to be sold -- I'm sorry -- that had to be resold with
13 PetroEcuador so that Vitol could be taken out of the blacklist
14 and be allowed to do business with PetroEcuador.

15 Q What was his reaction to that?

16 A He was very positive, seemed to me that he expected a --
17 bigger problems, like he was happy to see that the payment
18 that Vitol had to make was not substantial.

19 Q What do you mean by that, the payment wasn't substantial?

20 A Vitol had to pay I think less than \$200,000, meaning,
21 when I said not substantial, that I'm trying to say that it
22 was not a very high payment for a company like Vitol.

23 Q Pay for what?

24 A Penalties.

25 Q To what end?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 A So that it -- so that Vitol could be registered or
2 included in the registry of the international trade department
3 at PetroEcuador so that Vitol would be allowed to do business
4 with PetroEcuador.

5 Q Following that meeting, did you have any follow-up
6 conversations with Nilsen Arias?

7 A Yes, I explained to Nilsen Arias, I talked about the
8 meeting, of course.

9 Q What did you say?

10 A I said that the meeting -- that I had a very good
11 meeting, that Vitol was open to do business in -- actually, in
12 anything, in any product, but, of course, that we talked about
13 LPG, and that the first thing that would have to be done was
14 to resolve the issues that Vitol had with PetroEcuador.

15 Q After the meeting, did you begin to pursue a potential
16 LPG deal involving Vitol?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Can you describe, at a high level, how you began to do
19 that?

20 A Well, I obtained information from Nilsen and Xavier
21 Rodriguez about the current contract for providing LPG and
22 found out that probably at the end of 2015 there was going to
23 be an opportunity for selling LPG.

24 Q What type of opportunity? Can you summarize it?

25 A The volumes that the company was selling LPG to

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 PetroEcuador at the time were going to be completed, either
2 the volumes or the term of the contract were going to be over
3 early in 2016, therefore, there was space for somebody else in
4 this case, Vitol, to sell LPG.

5 Q Was that going to be a direct deal, Vitol to
6 PetroEcuador?

7 A We discussed at different times different structures.

8 At that time it was just going to be an offer with a
9 price. There was no loan involved. And Vitol was able to
10 sell LPG or -- yeah, it was able to sell LPG at a better price
11 than the company that was already selling LPG.

12 Q Which company was that?

13 A Petredec.

14 Q You said we discussed at the beginning of your last
15 answer. Who were you referring to?

16 A The defendant, Javier Aguilar, we discussed.

17 Q Did there come a time when the structure of that
18 potential deal changed?

19 A Yes. Like I was saying, later on, we -- when I say we, I
20 mean Nilsen Arias, the defendant, and myself, discussed the
21 possibility of Vitol making a loan to Ecuador and that loan
22 would be paid. Yeah, making a loan to Ecuador, which allowed
23 Vitol to sell LPG without going through a tender process.

24 Q And how would that come to be, not going through the
25 tender process?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 A The law in Ecuador allowed at the time to negotiate
2 directly with a company the sale of products, gasoline,
3 diesel. LPG directly, to negotiate directly and not have to
4 go through the tender process.

5 Q Negotiate directly with who?

6 A PetroEcuador and the company, in this case, Vitol.

7 Q Did the direct deal between PetroEcuador and Vitol end up
8 happening?

9 A No.

10 Q Did that structure change at all?

11 A The structure of the initial deal?

12 Q This potential LPG deal, yes.

13 A The potential LPG deal later on became a structure of
14 Vitol selling LPG and PetroEcuador paying that LPG with crude
15 oil.

16 Q Are you familiar with a company called Mex Gas?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What is Mex Gas?

19 A It's a company owned by the -- the state-owned company of
20 Mexico, PEMEX.

21 Q Did MexGas take any potential role in this deal?

22 A We discussed Mex Gas being the vehicle for selling LPG at
23 one point, yes.

24 Q What do you mean by that? Can you describe?

25 A I mean by that that Vitol could sell the LPG to

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 PetroEcuador through Mex Gas, which was again a company owned
2 by the state.

3 MR. LAX: I'd like to show the witness, please, Ms.
4 Jefferson, for the witness and parties only, Government
5 Exhibit 1017.

6 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1017?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What is it?

9 A It's an e-mail from -- that I sent to Javier Aguilar to
10 his address, Marcos Peres.

11 Q What is the date of the e-mail?

12 A September 2015.

13 MR. LAX: There is an attachment, Government Exhibit
14 1017-A. If we could show that to the witness, please.

15 Q Do you recognize the attachment?

16 A Yes, I do.

17 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government Exhibit
18 1017 and 1017-A.

19 MR. PRICE: No objection.

20 THE COURT: Received in evidence without objection.

21 (Government Exhibits 1017 and 1017-A received in
22 evidence.)

23 MR. LAX: The Government also offers Government
24 Exhibit 1017-A-T a stipulated transcripts, a translated
25 version of 1017-A.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 MR. PRICE: No objection.

2 THE COURT: And that stipulated translation is also
3 received in evidence without objection.

4 (Government Exhibit 1017-A-T received in evidence.)

5 MR. LAX: If we could please publish Government
6 Exhibit 1017 for the jury.

7 THE COURT: You may.

8 (Exhibit published.)

9 BY MR. LAX:

10 Q So who is this e-mail from and to?

11 A It is an e-mail that I sent to Javier Aguilar.

12 Q Where does it say Javier Aguilar?

13 A It says Marcos Peres, which was an e-mail address that
14 Javier Aguilar used.

15 Q Do you have an understanding as to why he used that
16 e-mail address?

17 MR. PRICE: Objection, lack of foundation.

18 MR. LAX: I'm asking the foundation.

19 THE COURT: He's trying to lay the foundation.

20 Q Just yes or no, do you have an understanding as to why
21 the defendant used that e-mail address?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Based on what?

24 MR. PRICE: Objection. Lack of foundation, how.

25 What's the basis of understanding?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 MR. LAX: That was my question.

2 MR. PRICE: My hearing is bad as I age. I
3 apologize.

4 THE COURT: You may answer.

5 THE WITNESS: Repeat the question, please.

6 Q What is your understanding based on?

7 A My understanding about the e-mail address he used?

8 Q Right.

9 A My understanding is that --

10 Q Not what the understanding is, just what is it based on?

11 A On what Javier Aguilar told me.

12 Q Okay. Based on what the defendant told you, why did he
13 use that e-mail address or what's your understanding of why he
14 used that e-mail address?

15 A Because this were things that he didn't want to be in the
16 record of Vitol.

17 Q I'd like show you now the attachment to this e-mail;
18 Government Exhibit 1017 --

19 MR. LAX: I'm sorry, Ms. Jefferson, let's use
20 1017-A-T.

21 Q What are we looking at here, Mr. Pere?

22 A This is the draft of a letter that I wrote for Javier
23 Aguilar to coordinate with Mex Gas and send it to the general
24 manager of Ecuador.

25 Q Why did you write it?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 A Because I knew the elements that a letter like this
2 should have in order to generate a positive reaction from
3 PetroEcuador and the Ecuadorian Government.

4 Q Knew how? Based on what?

5 A Based on my conversations with Nilsen Arias and also my
6 previous experience with other deals, like Gunvor deal.

7 Q What are those elements in this letter?

8 A Well, the first element is financing when I described the
9 capacity to enter into deals with financing facilities.

10 Q And I'm sorry to interrupt you, just to orient, are you
11 referring there to the middle of the third paragraph?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Where it says financing facilities?

14 A Correct. Next line. Yes.

15 Q Okay. Please continue.

16 A Another element was we can develop those projects -- I'm
17 sorry, these projects immediately. Ecuador was in need of
18 funds at the time. So the fact that we were saying in the
19 letter immediately, it's something that also was written to
20 catch the attention of the manager of PetroEcuador.

21 The other element was the bottom of the letter
22 copying William Vasconez.

23 Q Why, if at all, was that significant?

24 A Because William Vasconez was deputy secretary of public
25 financing of the finance ministry of Ecuador and he was, first

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 of all, close to Nilsen Arias. They worked together in other
2 deals; second, because he was the person in charge of getting
3 funds via loans or selling bonds for Ecuador. This means that
4 if he got the letter, he would have an element of motivation
5 for this process to continue.

6 Q The letter is addressed to Engineer Pareja. Who is that?

7 A He was the general manager of PetroEcuador at the time.

8 Q And then at the very top it says Mexico City federal
9 district, dot, dot, dot. What does that mean?

10 A That's the place where the letter was going to be signed.

11 MR. LAX: Could we return, Ms. Jefferson, please to
12 1017.

13 Q So why did you send this letter to the defendant?

14 A I sent it so that he could use it as a draft for Mex Gas
15 to send it to PetroEcuador.

16 Q I asked you about Marcos Perez. What is the full e-mail
17 address associated with Marcos Perez?

18 A Perezmarcos007@g-mail.com.

19 MR. LAX: I'm going to add perezmarcos007 to
20 Government Exhibit 50. Ms. Jefferson and Mr. Villanueva, for
21 the witness and for the parties only.

22 Q Mr. Pere, I would like to show Government Exhibit 1020-A.
23 Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1020-A?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And what is it?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 A It's an e-mail.

2 Q From who to who?

3 A Sent by the defendant to me.

4 Q On what date?

5 A On October 5, 2015.

6 Q There's a number of attachments to this e-mail. I'll
7 show them to you and see if you recognize them.

8 Government Exhibit 1020-B, do you recognize that as
9 one of the attachments?

10 A Yes.

11 Q 1020-C?

12 A Yes.

13 Q 1020-D?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Yes, you recognize it?

16 A Yes, I do.

17 Q 1020-E?

18 A Yes, I do.

19 Q 1020-F?

20 A Yes.

21 Q 1020-H? I'm sorry, G?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And 1020-H?

24 A Yes.

25 Q At a very high level, what's the nature of the e-mail and

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 the attachment? What does it have to do with?

2 A It's an e-mail that contains -- I mean, I don't know if
3 all, but documents needed by Mex Gas to be registered or
4 included in the registry of PetroEcuador.

5 Q In connection with the potential LPG deal that we've been
6 discussing?

7 A Yes.

8 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government Exhibit
9 1020-A through H.

10 MR. PRICE: No objection.

11 THE COURT: And those exhibits are received without
12 objection.

13 (Government Exhibits 1020-A through H received in
14 evidence.)

15 MR. LAX: We also have translations that I will
16 offer pursuant to stipulation, Government Exhibits 1020-A-T,
17 1020-B-T, and 1020-H-T.

18 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: And they are also received without
20 objection.

21 (Government Exhibits 1020-A-T, 1020-B-T, and
22 1020-H-T received in evidence.)

23 MR. LAX: If we could please publish for the jury
24 Government Exhibit 1020-A-T.

25 Q Mr. Pere, tell me if it is too small. Where it says from

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 and to, are you able to read that?

2 A I am.

3 MR. LAX: I can't. Let's blow it up a little bit
4 anyway. Thank you.

5 Q So who is it from and who is it to?

6 A It's from Javier Aguilar to me.

7 Q What e-mail address is that, Petrotel2011?

8 A It's an e-mail address I used for -- especially when I
9 didn't want to have my name on an e-mail.

10 Q What do you mean?

11 A This was something that would involve payments to me and
12 to people in PetroEcuador, so I didn't want my name to appear
13 in any forward or in any use of the e-mail.

14 MR. LAX: And if we can zoom out just to the body of
15 this e-mail, please.

16 Q What is the e-mail that is being sent here? Can you
17 summarize what this is?

18 A Yeah. The purpose is to provide with the documents that
19 were needed for Mex Gas to be able to do business with
20 PetroEcuador.

21 MR. LAX: I'd like to direct witness's attention now
22 to Government Exhibit 1020-B-T.

23 Q We don't need to go through all of them, but can you
24 explain what this attachment is?

25 A Yeah. It is a letter to Nilsen Arias from Mex Gas

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 presenting itself with details, with formal details about the
2 company.

3 Q Directing your attention now to another attachment,
4 1020-H-T. So this says, Subject reference letter. Did I read
5 that right?

6 A Yes, you did.

7 Q And what is this letter?

8 A It's a letter of reference from Vitol to PetroEcuador
9 stating that they have done businesses with Mex Gas for a few
10 years and they are recommending Mex Gas.

11 MR. LAX: If we can please pull up the original
12 version of this, 1020-H.

13 Q First, this is just the original Spanish version of what
14 we were look at; is that right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Does it appear to be signed by anyone?

17 A Yes.

18 Q By who?

19 A Javier Aguilar.

20 MR. LAX: Thank you, Ms. Jefferson.

21 Q Did that LPG deal involving Mex Gas, PetroEcuador, and
22 Vitol, did that ever close?

23 A No.

24 Q At the time, did you have an understanding as to why it
25 did not close?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 Without saying what it is, just yes or no, did you
2 have an understanding as to why?

3 A No.

4 Q Even though the deal didn't close, did you continue to
5 communicate with the defendant about getting Vitol business
6 with PetroEcuador?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What types of business did you discuss? And we're still
9 2015 time period.

10 A The main business was selling LPG, but we also talked
11 about the concession of terminal in Ecuador in which LPG is
12 received and stored, and also we talked about the construction
13 and operation of a terminal for oil and gas to be imported by
14 Ecuador, which was right next to the LPG terminal.

15 Q Did those terminals have any names?

16 A Monteverde LPG terminal. And the other one, which is
17 referred to as a products terminal in Monteverde.

18 Q Did that one have a name as well?

19 A Just like I said, we referred to it as the terminal for
20 products.

21 Q So shifting focus a little bit, did there come a time
22 when the deal shifted from potential LPG to something called
23 fuel oil?

24 A Yes.

25 Q We'll get into some specifics in a moment, but at a high

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 level, was a fuel oil actually reached?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Can you summarize the basic terms of the fuel oil?

4 A The basic terms, first, Vitol, through a state-owned
5 company, would loan \$300 million to Ecuador and Ecuador would
6 pay that loan with fuel oil by selling fuel oil to Vitol
7 through this state-owned company.

8 Q Over what period of time were the sales?

9 A From January 2017 until June 2019.

10 Q And approximately when was that deal reached?

11 A Late 2016.

12 Q Let's go back to the beginning of the fuel oil deal. How
13 did that start?

14 A Nilsen Arias told me there were volumes of fuel oil that
15 PetroEcuador was able to sell and we discussed about talking
16 to Vitol and see if Vitol had a relationship with a
17 state-owned company so that the deal could be done without
18 having to go through a public tender process.

19 Q And approximately when did that shift start, from LPG to
20 fuel oil?

21 A Sometime in the second semester of 2016.

22 Q Did you have conversations with the defendant about the
23 potential for a fuel oil deal?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Approximately when?

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 A During that same time, mid-2016.

2 Q Could you describe those conversations?

3 A The first question was if they had a relationship with a
4 state-owned company that would look good signing a contract
5 with PetroEcuador.

6 Q And what did he say?

7 A He said yes.

8 Q Was there any particular state-owned entity being
9 discussed at that point?

10 A The state-owned company that we discussed about was Oman
11 Trading, OTI, the State company from Oman.

12 Q When was the first time that you heard about OTI?

13 A From Javier Aguilar.

14 Q What did he tell you about it?

15 A He told me that the company had been created, founded by
16 Vitol together with Oman and that Vitol had sold its
17 participation in the company and that it was owned by Oman, by
18 the Omanian Government.

19 Q What happened to Mex Gas?

20 A For some reason we didn't push Mex Gas further. I don't
21 remember.

22 Q So involving PetroEcuador, OTI, and Vitol, what was the
23 potential structure?

24 A Vitol, through OTI, loaned the money to PetroEcuador, and
25 PetroEcuador exported fuel oil.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 MR. LAX: I'd like to show the witness, please,
2 Government Exhibit 1075.

3 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1075?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What is it?

6 A It's an e-mail that I sent to Xavier Rodriguez.

7 Q What's the general topic of the e-mail?

8 A It's an amendment to a fuel oil contract.

9 Q I show you the attachment, Government Exhibit 1075-A. Do
10 you recognize 1075-A?

11 A Yes.

12 MR. LAX: The Government moves into evidence into
13 evidence Government Exhibits 1075 and 1075-A.

14 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

15 (Government Exhibits 1075 and 1075-A received in
16 evidence.)

17 MR. LAX: Let's run through a few of these, if we
18 can and we'll walk through them.

19 Government Exhibit 1076 still for the witness.

20 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1076?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What is it?

23 A It's an e-mail that I sent to Xavier Rodriguez.

24 Q And the date?

25 A August 2016, August 28, 2016.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 Q And the attachment to this, Government Exhibit 1076-A?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you recognize the attachment?

4 A I'm sorry?

5 Q Do you recognize the attachment?

6 A Oh, yes, I do.

7 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government Exhibits
8 1076 and 1076-A.

9 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

10 (Government Exhibits 1076 and 1076-A received in
11 evidence.)

12 Q Let's do one more and then I will ask you a question,
13 Government Exhibit 1078. Do you recognize 1078?

14 A It's an e-mail sent by Javier Aguilar to myself on August
15 30, 2016.

16 Q And the attachment, 1078-A, do you recognize what?

17 A Yes.

18 MR. LAX: The Government offers 1078 and 1078-A.

19 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, we have no objections to any
20 of these documents: 1075, 1075-A, 1076, 1076-A, or 1078 and
21 1078-A.

22 (Government Exhibits 1078 and 1078-A received in
23 evidence.)

24 MR. LAX: If we could please now show and publish --
25 let's go to ten 76.

A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 Q Mr. Pere, who is e-mail from and to?

2 A I sen that e-mail to the Xavier Rodriguez.

3 Q And what e-mail address is Xavier Rodriguez using?

4 A xr.upstream@g-mail.com.

5 Q And what's the date of this e-mail?

6 A August 28, 2016.

7 Q So a fair amount of time has passed since the last e-mail
8 that I had showed you?

9 A What was the day of the last e-mail?

10 MR. LAX: If you could pull up, I think it was
11 1020-A.

12 A Oh, yes.

13 MR. LAX: Thank you.

14 Ms. Jefferson, back to 1070-A. Actually, let's jump
15 right to the attachment, 1071 A.

16 I'm sorry, 1076-A.

17 Q Mr. Pere, this is an attachment to the e-mail that you
18 sent to Xavier Rodriguez in August of 2016?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What is this attachment? What is this spreadsheet?

21 A This is the financial structure of the loan that Vitol,
22 through OTI, would make to Ecuador. It's just like a mortgage
23 payment schedule.

24 (Continued on next page.)

25

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 (Continuing.)

2 BY MR. LAX:

3 Q Directing your attention to column C.

4 What's the heading under column C?

5 A Month, mes.

6 Q It begins under October, what is that, 2014?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Why October 2014?

9 A Because that's a spreadsheet that I had for Enrique
10 related to previous dealings, so it was like a template,
11 let's say.

12 Q A template for -- for what?

13 A For advertising a loan.

14 Q And what was the amount of the loan?

15 A Three hundred million dollars.

16 Q Directing your attention now to column E.

17 Can you explain what that column is?

18 A That's the equity on the loan. That's how much it is
19 owed at that month.

20 Q So how does this amount, this template, factor into the
21 potential fuel oil deal that you were discussing in
22 mid-2016?

23 A Well, if you see column G, there is a monthly payment
24 that has to be made in -- for repaying the 300 million. And
25 also there is column L where you have an estimate of the

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 invoice, meaning, an estimate of how much would the fuel oil
2 bought by Vitol through OTI or sold by PetroEcuador,
3 whatever, how much that would be, meaning that PetroEcuador
4 would be selling \$15 million of fuel oil and, from that
5 amount, Vitol would deduct the monthly payment of
6 \$10 million in column G.

7 Q All right. Let's -- let's break that down a little
8 bit.

9 So PetroEcuador gets how much upfront?

10 A Three hundred million.

11 Q And then what happens to that over time?

12 A It gets reduced.

13 Q By -- by how much per month?

14 A It -- it gets reduced by, in the case of the second
15 month, \$1.6 million; third month, 1.64. And that is based
16 on the payments that PetroEcuador makes, minus the interest
17 for that month.

18 Q And where's the interest?

19 A Column F.

20 Q So each month this is reduced how much?

21 A Each month it's reduced -- it depends on the month
22 because you have to calculate the interest and the
23 principal, but the monthly payment must be \$10.9 million,
24 again, every month.

25 Q And in exchange for that payment, what happens?

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1 A In exchange for that payment, PetroEcuador sold fuel
2 oil for an estimate of 15 million.

3 Q So then on a monthly basis, when PetroEcuador sells
4 about 15 million of fuel oil for that month, how is it paid
5 for?

6 A Well, first, you deduct the amount that goes towards
7 the payment of the debt.

8 Q And that's -- that's, where, column G?

9 A Column G. And the difference is paid to PetroEcuador.

10 Q And at what point is that payment made?

11 A It's deducted from the amount of the invoice.

12 MR. LAX: Okay. I would like to now show the
13 witness only Government Exhibit 1079.

14 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1079?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And there is an attachment, 1079-A?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Do you recognize the attachment?

19 A Can you make it a little bigger? Yes.

20 MR. LAX: Government offers 1079 and 1079-A.

21 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Those documents are received without
23 objection.

24 (Government's Exhibits 1079, 1079-A received in
25 evidence.)

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1 MR. LAX: And if we can now show the witness only
2 Government Exhibit 1080.

3 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1080?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And the attachment to this, 1080-A?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you recognize 1080-A?

8 A Yes.

9 MR. LAX: The Government offers 1080 and 1080-A.

10 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: And those documents are similarly
12 received in evidence without objection.

13 (Government's Exhibits 1080, 1080-A received in
14 evidence.)

15 MR. LAX: You can now please publish Government
16 Exhibit 1080.

17 (Exhibit published.)

18 Q So Mr. Pere, who is this e-mail from and to?

19 A This is an e-mail I sent to Javier Aguilar.

20 Q And under what name did you send it?

21 A Alonso Perez.

22 Q And the defendant's e-mail address, here, was what?

23 A Marcos Perez, meaning Perez Marcos 007.

24 Q And this e-mail is August 30, 2016?

25 A Yes.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

711

1 Q Let me show you the attachment, Government
2 Exhibit 1080-A.

3 (Exhibit published.)

4 Q What is this attachment?

5 A This is a -- an amendment to the contract for selling
6 fuel oil that PetroEcuador had signed with PetroChina.

7 Q Why did you send this to the defendant?

8 A To use it as a reference for the new contract that we
9 were working on with OTI.

10 MR. LAX: And now for the witness, Government
11 Exhibit 1083.

12 Q Do you recognize 1083?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is it?

15 A E-mail I sent to Xavier Rodriguez.

16 Q And the date?

17 A September 6, 2016.

18 Q And the attachment to this e-mail, Government
19 Exhibit 1083-A, do you recognize that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And I will show you, still for the witness, Government
22 Exhibit 1085.

23 What is Government Exhibit 1085?

24 A It's an e-mail from Javier Aguilar to Xavier Rodriguez.

25 Q Is there another e-mail address on the to line, as

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 well?

2 A Yes. I am being copied.

3 Q And the date of that e-mail?

4 A September 13, 2016.

5 Q And the attachment, Government Exhibit 1085-A, do you
6 recognize 1085-A?

7 A Yes.

8 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government
9 Exhibits 1083, 1083-A, 1085, and 1085-A.

10 MR. PRICE: No objection.

11 THE COURT: Those documents are also received
12 without objection.

13 (Government's Exhibits 1083, 1083-A, 1085, 1085-A
14 received in evidence.)

15 MR. LAX: If we could please begin with 1083.

16 (Exhibit published.)

17 Q So this e-mail is from who to who?

18 A This is an e-mail I sent to Xavier Rodriguez.

19 Q And the attachment, what's it titled?

20 A OTI Letter V1.

21 Q What does V1 mean?

22 A It's the first version of that letter.

23 MR. LAX: If we could please show the attachment,
24 1083-A.

25 (Exhibit published.)

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Q What are we looking at here?

2 A This is a letter to be signed by OTI. This is actually
3 a draft I made, I wrote. And it has some elements that OTI
4 included, probably that first paragraph and second. And
5 it's introducing OTI to PetroEcuador and saying that OTI has
6 interest in purchasing fuel oil from PetroEcuador through a
7 prepayment or considering a prepayment structure.

8 Q Where do you see that?

9 A In the third paragraph.

10 Q You referred to earlier -- well, let me direct your
11 attention to the second paragraph.

12 Where did that information come from?

13 A From Javier Aguilar.

14 Q And what is that information?

15 A It's information about OTI and it's saying that it's
16 100 percent owned by the government of Oman.

17 Q And who is this draft letter addressed to?

18 A To the general manager of PetroEcuador.

19 Q Who is that?

20 A Pedro Merizalde.

21 Q And then at the bottom, Mr. Arias is copied on this
22 draft letter?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Why did you include that?

25 A Because Nilsen Arias was the international trade

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 manager and is the person close to me with whom we worked on
2 the possibility of signing something like this.

3 MR. LAX: Can we show 1083 again, just for one
4 moment?

5 (Exhibit published.)

6 Q All right. So the date is September 6, 2016?

7 A Yes.

8 MR. LAX: Let's jump to Government Exhibit 1085,
9 please.

10 (Exhibit published.)

11 Q Okay, so the date now?

12 A September 13.

13 Q And who is this e-mail from and to?

14 A From Javier Aguilar to Xavier Rodriguez.

15 Q And whose e-mail address is anpeyca@gmail.com?

16 A That's my e-mail also.

17 Q Now, the attachment here reads OTI Letter V5; is that
18 right?

19 A Yes.

20 MR. LAX: Let's look at the attachment, please,
21 Government Exhibit 1085-A.

22 (Exhibit published.)

23 Q What is this letter?

24 A This is the same letter for which I wrote the draft and
25 sent before.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 MR. LAX: Can we, Ms. Jefferson, please pull them
2 up side by side; 1083-A on the left and 1085-A on the right?

3 (Exhibits published.)

4 Q So the one on the left is the draft that you wrote?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And the one on the right is -- now appears to be
7 signed?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Who is Talal Al Awfi?

10 A The CEO of OTI.

11 Q Can I ask you to take a moment and just compare these
12 letters? How do they compare to each other?

13 A The two letters are virtually the same.

14 Q The one on the left, you wrote that one?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did you work for OTI?

17 A No.

18 Q Why, at the bottom, all the Xs for the signature?

19 A Because I didn't know who was going to sign it.

20 Q Now, at some point, did the fuel oil deal -- you
21 testified earlier, the fuel oil deal eventually closed?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did lawyers become involved in the fuel oil contract
24 negotiations and closing?

25 A Oh, yes.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Q Which law firms came to be involved?

2 A Well, I know about the law firm that worked or that
3 supported PetroEcuador, which was Hogan Lovells.

4 Q Do you recall the names of any other law firms that
5 came to be involved?

6 A No.

7 MR. LAX: If we can show the witness, please,
8 Government Exhibit 1127.

9 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1127?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What is it?

12 A That's an e-mail I sent to Javier Aguilar.

13 Q On what date?

14 A On October 26, 2016.

15 MR. LAX: The Government offers into evidence
16 Government Exhibit 1127.

17 MR. PRICE: No objection.

18 THE COURT: Received without objection.

19 (Government's Exhibit 1127 received in evidence.)

20 Q So now looking at this, we are now in October 2016?

21 A Yes.

22 Q The e-mail addresses from and to, we've talked about
23 those. I won't ask you questions about that, but who are
24 all the people beneath it? It starts with the line from
25 Forbes-Cockell.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Do you know who that is?

2 A No.

3 Q What about Miguel Zaldivar?

4 A Yes. He's an attorney for Hogan Lovell.

5 Q What about Gaston Fernandez?

6 A The same. He also work for the same law firm.

7 Q Do you know who Jonathan Ching is?

8 A No.

9 Q Or Tyler Stypinski?

10 A No.

11 Q Why did you send this to the defendant?

12 A To keep him informed or to inform him of the
13 advancements in the process, something that I received from
14 PetroEcuador.

15 Q How did you get this?

16 A I got it from Nilsen Arias.

17 Q And what were the advancements being discussed here?

18 A They are talking about the term sheet, the -- the basic
19 terms of the agreement.

20 Q What's a term sheet?

21 A Term sheet is a short version of a contract. The term
22 sheet is something you review and agree before writing the
23 contract, actually, the actual contract. And yeah, that's
24 what it is.

25 MR. LAX: If I could now please show the witness

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1 Government Exhibit 1133.

2 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1133?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What is it?

5 A E-mail that I sent to Javier Aguilar.

6 Q And the attachment, 1133-A?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you recognize the attachment?

9 A Yes.

10 MR. LAX: Let me now also show you, while we are
11 doing this, Government Exhibit 1153-A.

12 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1153-A?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is it?

15 A E-mail from Javier Aguilar to myself.

16 Q And there's a number of attachments on this one, as
17 well. Let's flip through them.

18 1153-B, do you recognize that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q 1153-C, just a blank attachment?

21 A Yes.

22 Q 1153-D?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And 1153-E?

25 A Yes.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 MR. LAX: So now The Government would move into
2 evidence Exhibits 1133 and 1133-A.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

5 MR. LAX: As well as 1153-A through -E.

6 THE COURT: Any objection to those?

7 MR. PRICE: No -- no objection. Puzzled by the
8 blank pages that are being admitted, but no objection.

9 MR. LAX: Happy not to offer them. Just offering
10 the whole -- the whole package.

11 MR. PRICE: That's fine.

12 THE COURT: With the puzzling blank pages
13 included.

14 MR. LAX: I won't spend a lot of time on the blank
15 pages.

16 THE COURT: That would be greatly appreciated,
17 Mr. Lax.

18 They are all received in evidence, and you could
19 spend time with the rest of them.

20 MR. LAX: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 (Government's Exhibit 1133, 1133 A, 1153-A,
22 1153-B, 1153-C, 1153-D, 1153-E received in evidence.)

23 MR. LAX: Let's go to 1133, please.

24 (Exhibit published.)

25 Q And just to try and keep it moving, so this is an

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 e-mail from you to the defendant?

2 A Yes.

3 Q All right.

4 MR. LAX: Let's look at the attachment, 1133-A.

5 (Exhibit published.)

6 Q What is the attachment? I'm only going to show you the
7 first page.

8 A It's a draft of the contract that would be signed
9 between PetroEcuador and Oman Trading International, OTI.

10 Q And why did you send it to the defendant?

11 A I sent it to the defendant to keep him informed of how
12 the contract was coming about.

13 Q How involved were you in these contract negotiations
14 once the lawyers got involved?

15 A Very little. I was just informed of what was
16 happening.

17 MR. LAX: Now let's take a look at 1153-A, please.

18 (Exhibit published.)

19 MR. LAX: If we could zoom in just on the initial
20 address stuff to begin with. Thank you.

21 Q So this e-mail from the defendant to -- what are those
22 e-mail addresses?

23 A Those are two of my e-mail addresses. And so it's sent
24 by Javier Aguilar to myself in two different e-mail
25 addresses.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Q And if we can look beneath this, the e-mail that is
2 forwarded to you. It's from -- all the way at the top --
3 again, from the defendant.

4 Who is that sent to?

5 A Sent to Nilsen Arias, Sonia Martinez, also.

6 Q Who is Sonia Martinez?

7 A She is an employee of PetroEcuador.

8 Q And what is -- can you summarize what this e-mail is?

9 A Yes. This is just a summary of changes to be made to
10 the contract.

11 Q I want to direct your attention to where it says
12 Section 11.

13 What is the change written there?

14 A They are adding a clause, allowing the appointment of
15 an operations agent.

16 Q What's an operations agent?

17 A To my understanding, it's the company that is going to
18 be handling the everyday operations related to the contract.

19 MR. LAX: Let's look at, now, just one of the
20 attachments to this, Government Exhibit 1153-B.

21 (Exhibit published.)

22 Q What is this attachment?

23 A Yeah, this is, again, a version of the fuel oil
24 contract to be signed between PetroEcuador and OTI.

25 Q I would like to direct your attention to page 3, and

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 down at the bottom, at Section 3.1, where it reads: The
2 seller shall sell and deliver and buyer shall buy and
3 receive.

4 Who is the seller and who is the buyer here?

5 A The seller is PetroEcuador and the buyer is OTI.

6 Q And then it says, continues: A minimum volume of
7 17,100,000 barrels of Fuel Oil Number 6.

8 What does that mean?

9 A It means that the contract is for Ecuador -- for
10 PetroEcuador to sell at least or minimum, at minimum,
11 17,100,000 barrels of Fuel Oil Number 6.

12 Q Over what period of time?

13 A Ninety cargo lots.

14 Q What does that mean, 90 cargo lots?

15 A Each cargo lot is 190,000 barrels of fuel oil.

16 Q How many cargo lots were sold under this contract per
17 month?

18 A It doesn't say it in this clause, but it's three cargos
19 per month.

20 MR. LAX: Let's flip to the next page, please,
21 just where this paragraph continues. And if we could just
22 zoom in on the -- yes.

23 Q So the duration here is January 1, 2017 to June 30,
24 2019?

25 A Correct.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Q Thirty months?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Do you see the 190,000 barrels that you were talking
4 about before?

5 A Yes.

6 MR. LAX: Now, if we could please turn to page 11.

7 Q Now, let's look at clause 11.4.

8 First, this is underlined and none of the others
9 are. Do you have an understanding of what that means?

10 A No. Something to be added.

11 MR. PRICE: I object and move to strike the last
12 part of the answer since he has no understanding.

13 THE COURT: He did not have an understanding. We
14 don't want him to guess.

15 The question was do you have an understanding, and
16 the answer is you do not.

17 THE WITNESS: I do not.

18 Q There is a reference to an operations agent, here.

19 Do you have an understanding of what an operations
20 agent is?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And what is that?

23 MR. PRICE: Object. Foundation. Basis and
24 understanding of this contract.

25 THE COURT: He's a facility with the contract.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Now, we have been asking several questions about the
2 contract, so I am going to allow him, if he has an
3 understanding.

4 First question, do you have an understanding? And
5 then, what is it?

6 A Yes, I do have an understanding. And it is that the
7 buyer, in this case, OTI, can appoint a third party as
8 operations agent, meaning another company or another agent
9 that's going to be receiving and sending notices in
10 connection with the operational and logistical provisions of
11 the contract.

12 Q And who -- who is that in this case?

13 A In this case it would be Vitol.

14 Q Was this contract eventually finalized?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And executed?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Have you seen it before?

19 A Yes, I have.

20 Q I would like to show you now what is in evidence,
21 Government Exhibit 5105.

22 (Exhibit published.)

23 Q Do you recognize this?

24 A Yes, I do.

25 Q What is it?

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 A That's the contract for the purchasing of fuel oil by
2 OTI.

3 MR. LAX: Let's jump to page --

4 THE COURT: Mr. Lax, are we getting?

5 MR. LAX: We are getting close, Your Honor. If I
6 could ask for the Court's indulgence, I think I will have a
7 break in about five minutes or so.

8 THE COURT: That's fine.

9 MR. LAX: Page 94.

10 Q And I would like to direct your attention to
11 clause 3.1.

12 Are you able to read that, sir?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Compared to the clause 3.1 that we looked at in the
15 draft before, how does this align?

16 A It is the same.

17 Q Seventeen-point-one million barrels?

18 A Yes. 90 cargos.

19 MR. LAX: If we could jump to page 102, please.

20 Q And look at clause 11.4. We've looked at an 11.4 in
21 the prior draft.

22 How does this compare?

23 A It's very similar, if not the same. Very similar.

24 MR. LAX: Jump to page 99, please.

25 Or, you know what? Let's just skip ahead. Can we

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 go to page 120, please?

2 Q So this Annex 3, what is this Annex 3?

3 A It shows how many cargos are to be sold by PetroEcuador
4 every month during 2017, 2018, and during the first half of
5 2019.

6 Q And how many per month?

7 A Three.

8 Q And how many total cargo lots?

9 A Ninety.

10 Q Ninety, nine-zero?

11 A I'm sorry?

12 Q I'm sorry, I didn't --

13 A Ninety, nine-zero, yes.

14 MR. LAX: And the next page, please, 121.

15 Q What is this?

16 A That's the amortization schedule for the loan, how it's
17 going to be repaid.

18 MR. LAX: Can we jump back to page 92?

19 Q All the way at the top is says: Is hereby entered into
20 on this sixth day of December, 2016.

21 Do you see that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did you have any conversations with anyone about the
24 signing of this contract?

25 A You mean before? After signing?

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Q After signing it, did you have a conversation about the
2 actual signing of the contract?

3 A Yes. I talked to Nilsen Arias, I talked to Javier
4 Aguilar, who were the most -- I mean, the two people most
5 interested besides me in signing the contract.

6 Q What did Nilsen Arias say about it?

7 A I don't remember exactly, but I do remember that he was
8 happy about it and saying job done, or something along those
9 lines.

10 Q Do you know where this contract was signed?

11 A No.

12 Q Can you describe your conversation with the defendant
13 about the signing?

14 A Just that the work had been done.

15 MR. LAX: If I could show the witness, please, for
16 the witness, parties only, Government Exhibit 1189.

17 Do you recognize 1189?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What is it?

20 A E-mail from Javier Aguilar to myself.

21 Q On what date?

22 A December 27th.

23 Q What year?

24 A I'm sorry, 2016.

25 MR. LAX: And if I could also show for the witness

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 only, Government Exhibit 1190-A.

2 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1190-A?

3 A Yes. That's an e-mail sent by Javier Aguilar to me to
4 two addresses that I have.

5 MR. LAX: The Government moves into evidence
6 Government Exhibits 1189 and 1190-A.

7 MR. PRICE: No objection.

8 THE COURT: Those documents are received without
9 objection.

10 (Government's Exhibit 1189, 1190-A received in
11 evidence.)

12 MR. LAX: If we could please publish 1189.

13 (Exhibit published.)

14 Q And to orient, who is this e-mail from and to?

15 A From Javier Aguilar to me.

16 Q Beginning all the way at the bottom of this chain, can
17 you summarize what this is about?

18 A Okay. It's saying that this is from -- I don't know
19 who Rick Evans is, but it's sent to Javier Aguilar, saying
20 that everything is complete except for the confirmation from
21 PetroEcuador that that they will use or accept the
22 designation of Arkham as the operations agent for the fuel
23 oil offtake.

24 Q What is Arkham?

25 A Arkham is a company, from what I remember, related to

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1 Vitol.

2 MR. LAX: Your Honor, I think I have passed my
3 five minutes, so I think that's a good place to stop.

4 THE COURT: See how indulgent I am? It's a good
5 place so stop and we shall.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, it has become obvious, we
7 decided to work through what would have been a morning
8 break, but since we got started so late, it became a little
9 too choppy. So that brings us to lunch and not the break.
10 With the weather like this, the food in the cafeteria gets
11 even better, but if you do want a break and go out, you are
12 free to do that, as well.

13 The other rules continue to apply. Continue to
14 keep an open mind. Don't discuss the case amongst
15 yourselves or with anyone else. Don't use the time to do
16 any homework. There is no homework allowed. We remain on
17 radio silence, so no communication whatsoever about anything
18 that touches on the case. And, again, to the extent, with a
19 broad definition of social media, should anything pop up
20 about the case, don't listen to it, don't look at it.

21 Enjoy your lunch. I know we got a late start on
22 the lunch break, so try to get back between 2:15 and 2:30.
23 Take your time on icy surfaces. Come back hale and hearty.
24 And we will get started after 2:30 or as close as we can.

25 Again, we appreciate your patience, your

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1 cooperation, your attentiveness and today your walking
2 skills.

3 See you at about 2:30. Again, return to the
4 central jury room and William will come to get you.

5 (Jury exits.)

6 (Witness steps down.)

7 THE COURT: Okay, so we will take a break. Again,
8 the usual rules there, as well. If you need something, take
9 it with you, otherwise, William will lock it up securely for
10 you.

11 See you around 2:30, or whenever people skate back.

12 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 (Luncheon recess taken.)

14

15 (Continued on the following page.)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

(In open court - jury not present.)

THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

(Judge ERIC N. VITALIANO entered the courtroom.)

THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Court is back in session.

Counsel for both sides are present, including defendant.

THE COURT: Are we ready to go?

MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

MR. KOFFMANN: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Then we shall.

12 MR. LAX: Bring the witness in and I'll go back to
13 the podium, if that's okay.

THE COURT: Yes.

(Witness entered and resumed the stand.)

(Jury enters.)

THE COURT: Be seated, please.

18 Counsel will stipulate that the jury is present and
19 properly seated.

MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

MR. KOFFMANN: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, counsel.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back. I'm glad you
24 arrived safely

25 The Court continues to monitor the weather. The

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1 conditions that you experienced at lunch are likely to
2 continue, so that slick and slippery conditions are out there.
3 To the extent that something more threatening comes upon or is
4 suspected to be coming upon us, we will adjust accordingly.

5 That being the case, we are ready to resume.

6 Mr. Antonio Pere is back the on the stand, remains on the
7 oath. Mr. Lax is now going to continue his direct
8 examination.

9 Mr. Lax.

10 MR. LAX: Thank you, Your Honor.

11

12 (Continued on the following page.)

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A. Pere - direct - Lax

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1 **ANTONIO PERE,**

2 previously called by the Government and sworn/affirmed by
3 the Courtroom Deputy, resumed the stand and was examined
4 and testified further as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continuing)

6 BY MR. LAX:

7 Q So, Mr. Pere, before lunch we left off and we left off
8 with the contract for fuel oil just being signed in December
9 of 2016, is that right?

10 A Yes.

11 Q By that point, had you been paid anything?

12 A No.

13 Q In connection with that contract?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you or any of your companies form a direct
16 contractual relationship with Vitol?

17 A Yes.

18 Q How so?

19 A There was a contract signed between one of the companies,
20 OIC or OPV with Zanza Oil or Lion Oil, which stipulated, among
21 other things, that Zanza Oil or Lion Oil will pay -- would pay
22 25 cents per barrel of fuel oil exported by PetroEcuador.

23 Q Was there ever a contract between OPV and Vitol directly?

24 A No.

25 Q Or EIC and Vitol?

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1 A No.

2 Q Or OIC and Vitol?

3 A No.

4 Q Any of your companies and Vitol?

5 A No.

6 Q Did there come a time when you had conversations with the
7 defendant about getting paid in connection with the fuel oil
8 contract?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Approximately when did those conversations begin?

11 A Before the contract was signed.

12 Q Can you describe those conversations?

13 A Basically, agreeing on a fee per barrel. And part of
14 that fee being considered a success fee, meaning it would be
15 paid as soon as the contract was signed. And then the rest of
16 that fee would be paid when the contract was being executed
17 and the fuel oil was being exported.

18 Q Did you reach an agreement about how much you would be
19 paid for the success fee?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How much was that?

22 A Three cents per barrel.

23 Q And how many barrels were there in the contract?

24 A It was 17 million barrels -- it was 90 times 190, 90
25 cargos times 190,000 barrels. So, that was -- I don't want to

1 do the math again.

2 Q I won't --

3 A Yeah, 17 million. 17 million barrels.

4 Q Okay. I won't make you do the math. I won't make you do
5 the math now.

6 So, you said three cents for the success fee.

7 What about the rest of it?

8 A The rest of it, the 22 cents were paid based on the
9 volume of fuel oil that was exported every month.

10 Q How did you have the conversations about your fee with
11 the defendant?

12 A Well, we negotiated the fee. I expressed that part of
13 the fee would be -- would have to be paid upon the signing of
14 the contract, and that the rest had to be paid over the
15 contract.

16 Q And what was the fee to be used for?

17 A The fee was to be used for paying Xavier Rodriguez,
18 Nilsen Arias, Enrique Pere and myself.

19 Q Did you document the calculation of the fee in any way?

20 A I made notes, yes.

21 Q Could you describe the notes that you made?

22 A The notes that I made, essentially, the -- calculating
23 the 25 cents minus the success fee, which was to be divided
24 between Nilsen and I. And then the rest of the -- of the fee,
25 the per barrel over the life of the contract, was calculated

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1 also. And I deducted the amount to be paid by -- I mean to
2 Xavier Rodriguez and to Enrique, and then the rest or the
3 difference would be split between Nilsen and I.

4 Q Where did you keep those notes?

5 A In a -- one of the notebooks I had in my office.

6 MR. LAX: Permission to approach the witness, Your
7 Honor.

8 THE COURT: You may.

9 BY MR. LAX:

10 Q Mr. Pere, I've handed you what are marked for
11 identification, Government Exhibit 502.

12 Do you see 502 there?

13 A Yes.

14 Q I've handed you 503.

15 Do you see Government Exhibit 503?

16 A Yes.

17 Q 504?

18 A Yes.

19 Q 512?

20 A Yes.

21 Q 515?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And 508?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Do you recognize those items?

1 A Yes, I do.

2 Q What are they?

3 A Those are my notebooks.

4 Q Let's begin first with Government Exhibit 502. You can
5 set the other ones to the side for a moment.

6 What types of things did you write down in 502?

7 A I wrote personal notes, things I had to do, things I
8 needed to remember when I was gonna have a conversation. Many
9 of these notes had to do with my dealings with PetroEcuador.

10 Q What about Government Exhibit 503, what kinds of things
11 did you write in 503?

12 A Same kind of things.

13 Q Five --

14 A Personal, business.

15 Q 512?

16 A Yes, 512, it's also the same kind of things, same type of
17 notes.

18 Q And what about 504?

19 A Yes, personal and business.

20 Q The same types of things?

21 A Same type.

22 Q What -- what's the approximate time period that 502
23 covers?

24 A June two-thousand -- 2015 through February,
25 approximately, of 2016.

1 Q And what's the approximate time period for 503?

2 A February 2016 until March 2016.

3 Q March, what was the year?

4 A Two-thousand-six -- I'm sorry. This is March 2017.

5 Q And same question for Government Exhibit 512, approximate
6 time period.

7 A March 2017 through April 2018.

8 Q And same question once more for Government Exhibit 504.

9 A May 2018 through May 2019.

10 Q All right. I am going to ask you to set those to the
11 side, please, and take a look at Government Exhibit 508.

12 What is Government Exhibit 508?

13 A This is just a legal pad that I used -- that I used for
14 making quick notes when I was on the phone or -- or just
15 thinking about something.

16 Q What types of notes are in Government Exhibit 508?

17 A Personal and business notes.

18 Q What types of business notes?

19 A Information about cargos of crude oil. Information about
20 fees to be paid in connection with the fuel oil contract we've
21 been talking about.

22 Q And finally, I'd like to direct your attention to
23 Government Exhibit 515.

24 What is that notebook?

25 A This book registers payments or payments made to people

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1 in conjunction with the contracts that I managed and executed.
2 And also notes about payments to be made or distribution of
3 the commissions I was expecting to receive.

4 Q Do those notes relate to any one particular scheme?

5 A No. They relate to more than one.

6 Q Did you keep a note of each and every payment that you
7 made?

8 A No, no. No, I didn't.

9 Q Where did you keep those journals and that notepad?

10 A In -- in my office.

11 Q Is that the same office that was searched by the FBI?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Were they at the office when the FBI searched that
14 office?

15 A Yes, they were.

16 Q What happened to them?

17 A They were taken by the FBI.

18 Q All of them?

19 A No, except 515.

20 Q Did the FBI take other items from your office as well?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What happened with Government Exhibit 515?

23 A That notebook was not together with the other notebooks I
24 see now. And it was inside a folder and the FBI didn't take
25 it during the search.

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1 Q Where was it located in -- in your office in relation to
2 the other notebooks that we've been discussing?

3 A It was in a different drawer behind my desk.

4 Q Does Government Exhibit -- so what happened to it after
5 that?

6 A Well, it was inside a folder, so I had no notice that
7 that book was there, and when I found out I told my attorney
8 that I had that notebook.

9 Q And I don't want to ask you about questions about what
10 you spoke with your attorney about, but what ended up
11 happening to that notebook?

12 A It ended staying inside a folder in my house, in my home
13 office.

14 Q And after that?

15 A And after that, I turned it to -- to the attorneys also
16 because there was some information that was needed and I
17 realized it was there.

18 Q You gave it to your attorneys?

19 A Yes, I did.

20 Q For what purpose?

21 A So that the attorney can give 'em to the Government.

22 MR. LAX: Ms. Jefferson, can we please show the
23 witness Government Exhibit 503-A-1.

24 BY MR. LAX:

25 Q Mr. Pere, do you recognize Government Exhibit 503-A-1?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q What is it?

3 A That's a page from one of my notebooks.

4 Q Is that from Government Exhibit 503?

5 A Yes.

6 Q What's the date of the page?

7 A July 19th of 2016.

8 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government
9 Exhibit 503-A-1.

10 MR. PRICE: Objection, hearsay.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Lax, do you want to be heard on that
12 over here?

13 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

14 (Sidebar held.)

15

16 (Continued on the following page.)

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(Sidebar conference held on the record in the presence of the Court and counsel, out of the hearing of the jury.)

4 MR. LAX: Your Honor, these are notebooks of the
5 witness that he took during the course of the scheme. They
6 are statements of a co-conspirator that were communicated in
7 furtherance of the conspiracy. They are admissible on that
8 basis.

9 MR. PRICE: They're not -- Bill Price. They're not
10 communicated to anyone.

11 THE COURT: Who were they communicated to?

12 MR. LAX: They're still statements. They don't have
13 to be communicated in order for them to be statements. They
14 are statements --

15 THE COURT: They are statements in furtherance of
16 the conspiracy?

17 MR. LAX: Yes. They all relate to the fuel oil
18 contract, how the commissions were paid, how they were
19 allocated.

20 THE COURT: I gather that.

21 I have never encountered a situation, maybe I'm on
22 the same page with Mr. Price, I never encountered a situation
23 where the statement wasn't communicated to somebody.

24 MR. LAX: Well, some of them relate to conversations
25 that he's had or information that was relayed from the

1 defendant, for example, in some of these. Other ones are
2 statements, again, of things that he is going to do and steps
3 that he intends to take in furtherance of the conspiracy.

4 MR. GALEOTTI: Your Honor, may I add? Matthew
5 Galeotti for the Government.

6 There is a lot of precedence for this type of ledger
7 being kept. For example, in 15-CR-252, United States v. Webb,
8 which your clerk can look up, which is otherwise known as the
9 FIFA cases, there were a series of ledgers just like this that
10 were kept. They came in as statements of a co-conspirator
11 because what the witness is doing is recording statements and
12 information that he gained during the course of the conspiracy
13 from others and those that he intended to relay to others.

14 So, there is precedence precisely for this type of
15 note and ledger being kept.

16 MR. PRICE: Well, a couple things.

17 I haven't looked at the case.

18 THE COURT: Nor have I.

19 MR. PRICE: And on a case-by-case basis maybe
20 something may come in as a co-conspirator statement.

21 Let me say first as to if he's writing down
22 conversations he had, then the conversations he had would come
23 in as co-conspirator statements in furtherance of the
24 conspiracy, but not the notes to himself. Maybe they could be
25 used to refresh recollection or something like that.

1 With respect to noting certain transactions or
2 whatever, since it's not communicated as part of the
3 conspiracy, you would have to lay a foundation of kind of a
4 business records exception or something like that. Which I
5 would think they might be able to do, but --

6 THE COURT: They haven't.

7 MR. PRICE: -- have not.

8 THE COURT: Yet.

9 MR. PRICE: Yes.

10 MR. LAX: I mean I'm happy to ask him foundational
11 questions about whether or not this is a record that he
12 maintains in the ordinary course of his dealings and admit
13 them, admit them under that -- under that basis.

14 I mean he's testified to these notebooks as a
15 consistent sort of three, four-year time period as,
16 essentially, daily journals.

17 We have in this particular excerpt, and the excerpts
18 that we intend to offer, they all relate directly to the fuel
19 oil deal and the contract and how the evolution of the
20 commissions were calculated and later on that -- reflecting
21 that commissions and bribes were actually paid.

22 MR. PRICE: Well, waving your hand and saying, the
23 witness saying these are kept in the ordinary course of
24 business does not lay the foundation.

25 So, the foundation hasn't been laid. That would not

1 lay the foundation for it. It doesn't tick off the elements.

2 And, again, you know, he could testify as to what
3 happened. He can use these to refresh his recollection, but
4 so far no -- no foundation.

5 THE COURT: I think the way to do this, and we'll
6 take a look at the case, so to avoid error, why don't you
7 proceed.

8 I mean best evidence, first of all, is going to be
9 his testimony about the contents. Since they're statements,
10 if they're statements or records that he kept that reflect
11 payments made or received, and he can use that to refresh his
12 recollection.

13 In the interim, we'll take a look at the Webb case.
14 We'll take a look at that, and then we'll revisit whether the
15 documents, themselves, can come in, but his recollections of
16 the relevant portions, unless he indicates some of them are
17 personal.

18 MR. LAX: Well, I'm not offering -- I'm not offering
19 those.

20 THE COURT: I know, but it goes to the nature of the
21 book.

22 MR. GALEOTTI: Your Honor, Matthew Galeotti again.

23 May I just also add that while this is being
24 considered not only as a co-conspirator statement, but also
25 during the opening statements there was a broadside attack

1 launched on the credibility of this particular witness. So,
2 these are also prior consistent statements that are admissible
3 for that purpose as well because his credibility has been
4 attacked, and certainly will be on cross in any event, but
5 it's already been done. These are also prior consistent
6 statements that show that they were contemporaneously
7 recorded, and they are going to -- they are going to be
8 admissible for that purpose as well.

9 THE COURT: Well, I know there have been some
10 changes in the rules that went into effect, I think,
11 Catherine, this November --

12 THE LAW CLERK: December.

13 THE COURT: -- for consistent statements, so we'll
14 have to check the rule.

15 MR. GALEOTTI: I think it's 613, but I defer to the
16 Court on this.

17 THE COURT: Well, they went into effect last month.

18 MR. PRICE: It hasn't been impeached yet.

19 THE COURT: But as I say, we'll revisit -- for now
20 we will sustain the objection to the books coming in, but
21 there's no reason why, Mr. Lax, we should waste the time and
22 you can get the contents in through questioning.

23 MR. LAX: Okay. Very well, Your Honor.

24 (Sidebar concluded; proceedings resumed.)

25 (Continued on the following page.)

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1 (In open court; jury present.)

2 BY MR. LAX:

3 Q Mr. Pere, could you please describe --

4 MR. LAX: And, Ms. Jefferson, we can take this down,
5 please.

6 Q Could you please describe how the success fee was
7 calculated?

8 A The success fee was calculated based on the total volume
9 of fuel oil that was going to be sold to OTI, meaning three
10 cents times the number -- the total number of barrels, which
11 was 17 million, like we said before.

12 Q What was the total amount of the success fee based on
13 that calculation?

14 A It was around 500,000; 400.

15 Q So taking that success fee, how was it going to be broken
16 down as part of the calculations?

17 A The success fee was going to be divided between Nilsen
18 and myself.

19 Q Was that all, just 50/50 from three cents to the seven --
20 times 17 million; how would that then be broken out?

21 A You mean the -- you're talking just about the success
22 fee?

23 Q Yes.

24 A Oh, okay. There was an amount left there for Xavier
25 Rodriguez also, which was about 50,000, \$60,000.

1 Q Okay. So if we're following the math, you've got the
2 4 to 500,000 that you said, minus 50,000?

3 A Correct.

4 Q What happens with the balance?

5 A The balance was divided between Nilsen Arias and myself.

6 THE COURT: So I'm clear, when you say "balance,"
7 Mr. Lax, you're saying balance of the success fee?

8 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor, 4 to 500, minus 50, 350
9 to 450; and then that amount divided by two.

10 BY MR. LAX:

11 Q Do I have that right?

12 A Yes, you do.

13 THE COURT: And that's the entire success fee?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 THE COURT: If you added all those components up --

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 THE COURT: -- you get to the total success fee?

18 THE WITNESS: Correct.

19 THE COURT: So there are three parts?

20 THE WITNESS: Three parts?

21 THE COURT: The part that's divided in half, and the
22 50,000?

23 THE WITNESS: Correct, correct.

24 Q In terms of payments to be made other than the success
25 fee, the per barrel arrangement that you described earlier,

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1 how was that going to be broken out?

2 A That was -- there were \$5,000 per cargo to Xavier
3 Rodriguez, meaning \$15,000 per month because there were three
4 cargos.

5 Q Per month?

6 A Per month.

7 Q Okay.

8 A Yes. And then one cent, one or two cents for Enrique
9 Pere, and the difference was to be divided or was divided
10 between Nilsen Arias and myself.

11 Q The money that you received, how did you receive it?
12 Let's take the success fee.

13 A It was paid by one of the companies managed and --
14 managed by Lionel Hanst, to one of the companies that we had,
15 OIC, EIC, or OPV.

16 Q Did you have conversations with the defendant about how
17 you would receive the money?

18 A I don't remember if I specified to which company or which
19 account, but I did talk about having an account preferably in
20 euros, I remember that.

21 Q What do you mean by that?

22 A That the suggestion that Javier Aguilar made was for me
23 to open an account in euros instead of dollars.

24 Q Did he explain why?

25 A The explanation he gave me was that the tracing of the

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1 euros in maintaining those transfers outside of the
2 U.S./dollar radar was better for our agreement for -- for
3 paying our contract.

4 Q What, if anything, did you do based on that conversation
5 with the defendant?

6 A I asked Enrique Pere to open an account in euros.

7 Q Did that happen?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Let's talk a little bit about some of the companies that
10 you just mentioned.

11 EIC, who -- who owned EIC?

12 A Enrique Pere.

13 Q Did that change over time at all?

14 A No.

15 Q Approximately when was EIC incorporated?

16 A EIC was incorporated in 2012. And now that you mention
17 it, at that time the company was mine. It was under my name.
18 That changed later into Enrique's name.

19

20 (Continued on the following page.)

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1 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continuing)

2 BY MR. LAX:

3 Q Where was it incorporated?

4 A In Panama or BVI.

5 MR. LAX: I'd like to show you, for the witness
6 only, Government Exhibit 5505.

7 Ms. Jefferson, could we just flip through the first
8 few pages.

9 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 5505?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What is it?

12 A Those are the documents related to the creation of Energy
13 Intelligence and Consulting Corp., EIC.

14 Q Did you maintain those?

15 A If I maintaining in my possession those documents?

16 Q Did you at one point, yes.

17 A At one point, yes.

18 MR. LAX: The Government moves into evidence
19 Government Exhibit 5505?

20 MR. PRICE: No objection, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Received without objection.

22 (Government's Exhibit 5505 received in evidence.)

23 MR. LAX: May we please publish? Thank you.

24 THE COURT: You may.

25 (Exhibit published.)

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1 Q So looking at the first page here of Government Exhibit
2 5505, high level, what is this exhibit? What are these
3 documents?

4 A What is -- can you repeat the question, please.

5 Q Just what is this exhibit?

6 A Oh, it's -- it shows documents related to the creation of
7 Energy Intelligence in Panama.

8 Q And up top it says Mossack Fonseca. What is that?

9 A Well, that's the law firm that created in Energy
10 Intelligence in Panama.

11 Q I'd like to direct your attention page 3 of this exhibit.
12 And what is this?

13 A Those are the names of the directors and other officers
14 of the company.

15 Q Where do those names come from?

16 A From Mossack Fonseca.

17 Q Do you know any of those people?

18 A No.

19 Q I would like to direct your attention now to page 4.
20 What is this page?

21 A It's a register for the shareholders.

22 Q Who is listed as shareholder?

23 A Me.

24 Q And the date?

25 A It is June 20, 2012.

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1 Q Did EIC own or maintain any bank accounts?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Who had signatory authority over those accounts?

4 A At the beginning, I had. Afterwards, Enrique Pere.

5 Q In practice, who managed those accounts?

6 A The everyday movement of funds, Enrique.

7 Q Did EIC have any employees?

8 A No.

9 Q Or offices?

10 A No.

11 Q Turning to OIC, who owned OIC?

12 A Enrique Pere.

13 Q In practice, did you have the ability to control OIC?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Where and when was it incorporated?

16 A OIC was incorporated in the British Virgin Islands around
17 2015, 2016.

18 Q Why was it incorporated?

19 A For -- it was a request from Gunvor not to operate in
20 Switzerland where Energy Intelligence had the account and also
21 it had to do with Mossack Fonseca not wanting to be related to
22 Mossack Fonseca.

23 Q What do you mean by that?

24 A Well, Mossack Fonseca had the Panama papers leak of
25 information and we didn't want -- when I say we, Enrique and

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1 I, we don't want to be exposed more on that list.

2 Q Did OIC maintain bank accounts?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Who had authority over those accounts?

5 A Ultimately, I had authority.

6 Q Were you a signor on those accounts?

7 A No.

8 Q Who was that?

9 A Enrique Pere.

10 Q And in practice, who managed the OIC bank accounts?

11 A Day to day, Enrique Pere.

12 Q Did OIC have any employees?

13 A No.

14 Q Or offices?

15 A No.

16 Q Finally, let's turn to OPV. Where and when was OPV
17 incorporated?

18 A OPV was incorporated in 2016, '17, at most, and it was
19 also incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

20 Q Was why OPV incorporated?

21 A It was incorporated in order to deal with the OTI fuel
22 oil business.

23 Q What do you mean by that?

24 A That meant that the contract would be signed by a new
25 company, in this case, OPV, and that way I would maintain the

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1 OTI/Vitol contract separated from contracts that I had before
2 with Gunvor.

3 Q Did OPV maintain bank accounts?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And who had signatory authority over those accounts?

6 A Enrique Pere.

7 Q And who managed those accounts?

8 A Enrique Pere.

9 Q Did OPV have any employees?

10 A No.

11 Q Or offices?

12 A No.

13 Q In addition to opening a Euro account, were any other
14 steps taken in connection with payment from Hanst for the fuel
15 oil contract?

16 A Well, we produced invoices for Lionel Hanst to be able to
17 have support for transactions for the bank that he used.

18 Q What do you mean by that, support for the bank?

19 A That the bank needed to know, hey, why are you making
20 this payment and he had to say I'm paying this invoice for
21 this description of services.

22 Q What was the description of services on those invoices?

23 A One time I recall being directly fuel oil deliveries and
24 also at other times it had do with different concepts, mostly
25 related to LPG for concepts that -- for description to be

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1 included in the invoices that were given to us by either
2 Javier Aguilar or mostly Lionel Hanst.

3 Q What type of information went on the invoices?

4 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, I object, best evidence.

5 THE COURT: I'm going to allow it. I'm going to
6 allow it, the type.

7 A The type of information was the description of a service,
8 not necessarily the contract that the -- or the services that
9 the contract stipulated, and there were different concepts. I
10 didn't manage directly those invoices, but I can tell you that
11 the concepts were for items like I just mentioned.

12 Q Like LPG?

13 A Oh, yes, definitely LPG.

14 Q What do you mean by concept?

15 A The concept? The description of the services for which
16 the invoice was being paid.

17 Q Why was the invoice being paid?

18 A It was being paid because that's what the contract
19 between ourselves and Zanza Oil or Lion Oil stipulated.

20 Q Was it being paid in connection with any LPG products?

21 A No.

22 Q What product or products was it being paid in connection
23 with?

24 A With the fuel oil.

25 Q Why not just list fuel oil on the invoices?

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1 A Because that was the indication we received from Lionel
2 or from Javier Aguilar.

3 Q You referred to contracts with Lionel. Can you describe
4 the nature of those contracts?

5 A The nature of the contract was first to establish the
6 fees to be paid in connection with the contract and it has a
7 broad description of services that had do with markets and
8 studies, things along those lines.

9 Q Were those services performed?

10 A No, they were not.

11 Q When the contracts were executed, did you have any
12 intention of performing those services?

13 A No.

14 MR. LAX: I would like to show the witness, please,
15 Government Exhibit 1381-A.

16 Q Do you recognize Government Exhibit 1381-A?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And what is it?

19 A It's an e-mail from Javier Aguilar to me.

20 Q What's the date?

21 A February 7th of 2018.

22 Q I will show the attachment, 1381-W. Do you recognize the
23 attachment?

24 A Yes.

25 MR. LAX: The Government offers 1381-A and B.

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1 MR. PRICE: No objection.

2 THE COURT: Received without objection.

3 (Government's Exhibits 1381-A and B received in
4 evidence.)

5 MR. LAX: May we please publish 1381-A.

6 And, Ms. Jefferson, if we could zoom out quickly so
7 the jury can see the whole document.

8 Q So now zooming in again on the header. Who is this
9 e-mail from and to?

10 A From Javier Aguilar to me.

11 Q What e-mail address did Javier Aguilar use here?

12 A He used his official Vitol e-mail address.

13 Q I asked you questions earlier about the Perez Marco 007
14 account. Did you also communicate with him using the official
15 Vitol e-mail address?

16 A Yes, sometimes. Sometimes I received e-mails from that
17 e-mail address. I don't think I sent e-mails to that e-mail
18 address. I cannot recall that I sent one.

19 MR. LAX: Let's look at the attachment please,
20 1381-B. Ms. Jefferson, I'm sorry, if we can go back to A.

21 Q Mr. Pere, what is the subject line of the e-mail?

22 A Cargoes, meaning cargos of fuel oil, from January of 2017
23 to January of 2018.

24 Q What does that mean?

25 A That means what number of cargos were shipped, yeah,

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1 were shipped by PetroEcuador during those times.

2 MR. LAX: Now, switch to B.

3 Q All right. So now looking at the attachment, what is
4 this?

5 A Well, this is a chart that shows month and then the
6 number, meaning if it was first cargo of the contract, then
7 the name of the vessel on which those barrels of fuel oil were
8 loaded, then the window, meaning that fuel oil was loaded
9 somewhere during those dates, usually -- I mean, it was a
10 three-day window, and place, which is the terminal or the buoy
11 at which the fuel oil was loaded, then the bill of lading
12 date, and the number of barrels of crude oil, I'm sorry, of
13 fuel oil.

14 Q What's the date of the spreadsheet? Where does it begin?

15 A 2017, January.

16 Q In column -- well, you mentioned cargos. Is that like
17 the cargos you testified about earlier?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you see that type of information on this spreadsheet?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Where?

22 A I see, in the case of January, you can see the one and
23 two, meaning two cargos.

24 In column G, you can see 199,000 or 175,000, which
25 is the amount of barrels, the contract stated for 190,000

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1 barrels, plus or minus 10 percent.

2 Q What, if anything, did you do with this information?

3 A That was information used for producing the invoices.

4 Q Which invoices?

5 A The ones that were sent to Lionel Hanst to pay for the
6 fees that we had agreed with Vitol.

7 Q Can you explain how you would use this information to
8 calculate the fee for an invoice?

9 A Well, I would take the number of barrels and multiply it
10 by 22 cents, which was the fee, the net fee after subtracting
11 the three cents success fee.

12 Q Let's shift gears a little bit to the bribes that were
13 promised and paid to Nilsen Arias. What was the total amount
14 promised to Arias in connection with the fuel oil contract?

15 A It was around -- approximately 10 or 11 cents per barrel
16 from the 17 million barrels of fuel oil, that would be 1.7
17 million.

18 Q Was all of that actually paid to him?

19 A No, it wasn't.

20 Q What about the success fee portion, was that paid to him?

21 A The success fee portion was paid to him, yes.

22 Q Do you know where he was paid?

23 A No, I don't remember. I don't know, actually.

24 Q Let's turn to Xavier Rodriguez.

25 You have testified that there was a success fee

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1 portion for Xavier Rodriguez.

2 A Yes.

3 Q Was he paid a success fee in connection with the fuel oil
4 contract?

5 A Yes, he was.

6 Q How much?

7 A He was paid 60, 80,000, 60,000. Between 60 and 80,000.

8 Q And then you also mentioned a monthly portion to Xavier
9 Rodriguez?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Was that paid consistently?

12 A It was paid as long as Vitol had paid us, I mean, as long
13 as Lion Oil or Zanza Oil paid us.

14 Q What do you mean by that?

15 A I mean, that at one point in time that Lion Oil or Zanza
16 Oil stopped making payments and at that point in time I
17 stopped making payments to Xavier Rodriguez.

18 Actually, I made a mistake and paid two or three
19 cargos extra for which I had not received payment yet, but
20 that's how it worked.

21 Q What amount was typically paid to Rodriguez when you did
22 pay?

23 A 30,000.

24 Q Why 30,000?

25 A That meant two months of shipments, because it was like

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1 -- it was 5,000 per cargo; three cargos, 15,000; two months,
2 30,000.

3 Q Can you describe how the payments were made to Xavier
4 Rodriguez?

5 A The payments were paid in cash by Guayaquil.

6 Q How?

7 A There was a driver that picked up cash in the -- in an
8 office and somebody who had access to cash, and then delivered
9 it to Xavier Rodriguez in Guayaquil at a hotel usually where
10 Rodriguez said he would be.

11 Q Who was the driver?

12 A The name of the driver is Jorge Ponce.

13 Q Who did Mr. Ponce work for?

14 A He worked for Nicholas Naranjo.

15 Q How did you get the cash?

16 A Enrique Pere handled that part, but I know that the cash
17 was given to us by a, let's say, non-formal loan provider of
18 people in Guayaquil.

19 Q What do you mean by that?

20 A That it -- I mean, it was a person who made loans, but he
21 wasn't a bank or anything, so that's why I said informal. He
22 made them themselves, I mean, himself.

23 Q So just walk me through the steps. So if you have money,
24 how do you convert that money to cash to then in turn use to
25 pay Xavier Rodriguez?

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1 A Okay. What we would do is transfer money from offshore
2 accounts to this person's account offshore also and he would
3 give us the cash in Guayaquil.

4 Q Where did you transfer the money to?

5 A To a company -- sorry, to a company he had, to an
6 offshore company he had.

7 Q Offshore, meaning where?

8 A Panama or BVI. I'm not sure.

9 Q Who were the transfers to? Who is the person you're
10 referring to?

11 A Jorge Ode.

12 Q Did you keep records of payments to Xavier Rodriguez in
13 connection with the fuel oil scheme?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Where did you keep those records?

16 A In one of my notebooks.

17 Q The notebooks there in front of you?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you maintain records of that in any other form?

20 A Not that I can recall.

21 Q Did you maintain records of these cash transactions
22 generally?

23 A Sometimes.

24 Q The cash transactions involving Mr. Ode, did that relate
25 to one particular scheme?

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1 A No.

2 Q Can you explain?

3 A There were payments we made in cash. When I say we, I am
4 referring to Enrique Pere and I. Like I said, he was the
5 person in charge of the details, let's say, everyday details.
6 But we used that money to pay bribes in connection with Gunvor
7 contracts also.

8 Q Did you track the cash that was being used in your
9 businesses?

10 A Indirectly through Enrique, yes.

11 Q Do you know how Enrique did that?

12 A He had like ledger, like an accounting ledger where he
13 would put the cash received and the cash that went out.

14 Q Have you seen those records before?

15 A Yes, I have.

16 Q Did you have regular access to them?

17 A Yes, if I needed to.

18 Q Where were they kept?

19 A In Enrique's computer, maybe printout, maybe in e-mails
20 to me. Not necessarily in one place.

21 Q Were they kept in Adexus offices?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you recall the dates and the amounts of each and every
24 cash payment made to Xavier Rodriguez in connection with the
25 fuel oil scheme?

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1 A No.

2 Q Is there something that would refresh your recollection
3 about that?

4 A If you show me something in my notes.

5 Q Did you record those types of things in your notes?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Would seeing them help you refresh your recollection
8 about those pages?

9 A I would think so, yes.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Lax, before we, maybe this would be
11 a good time for the break.

12 MR. LAX: I think it would be, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to
14 take our afternoon break. We continue to check the weather
15 through our chambers upstairs. Relax. Use whatever rooms you
16 need to back there.

17 Don't discuss the case amongst yourselves or with
18 anyone else. Continue to keep an open mind. We will see you
19 in about 15.

20 (Jury exits the courtroom.)

21 THE COURT: Okay. Take a stretch and we will be
22 back in 15.

23 MR. GALEOTTI: Your Honor, may we address the point
24 from sidebar earlier?

25 THE COURT: Yes. We are in open court right now.

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1 MR. GALEOTTI: I was citing a case at sidebar which
2 is the correct case. It is 15-cr-252, United States v. Webb.
3 And in particular, I'm looking at transcript pages 1109 and
4 1110 in which precisely this type of notes are at issue.
5 There was a sidebar on it, and Judge Chen ruled such ledgers
6 and notebooks are co-conspirator statements. She actually
7 said these are the classic co-conspirator statements, and they
8 are allowed in under 801(d)(2)(E).

9 Your Honor, these statements are clearly made in
10 furtherance of the conspiracy. Mr. Peres has testified he is
11 taking notes and ledgers so he can record transactions that
12 have been promised and so that he can continue to effectuate
13 the conspiracy by making the payments that have been promised
14 to Government officials.

15 In addition to that, Mr. Enrique Pere, his brother,
16 who's the one there is a foundation has been the operations
17 man in the scheme, needed those notes as well so that he could
18 prepare ledgers and documents in order to effectuate the
19 scheme.

20 These are classic co-conspirator statements that
21 record what has happened in the scheme and what needs to
22 happen going forward, and they are evidence of that conspiracy
23 put in place to effectuate the particulars of that conspiracy.

24 So for those reasons, Your Honor, we submit they are
25 appropriately submitted under 801(d)(2)(E).

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1 THE COURT: We will take our break and we will take
2 a quick look.

3 You have given a case cite too.

4 MR. GALEOTTI: 15-cr-252, transcript pages 1109 and
5 1110.

6 THE COURT: And that's available to --

7 MR. GALEOTTI: I have sent a copy to Your Honor's
8 clerk, copying defense counsel as well, of the relevant pages.

9 THE COURT: Judge Chen explains her ruling in those
10 transcript pages?

11 MR. GALEOTTI: In the sidebar, Your Honor, yes.

12 THE COURT: In the sidebar.

13 MR. GALEOTTI: Yes.

14 THE COURT: I will take a look.

15 MR. GALEOTTI: Thank you.

16 (Recess taken.)

17 THE COURTRoom DEPUTY: All rise. Court is back in
18 session. Counsel for both sides are present, including
19 defendant.

20 THE COURT: Be seated, please.

21 We had a chance to review the material by the
22 Government and a couple other cites. It seems to fall not
23 only within Judge Chen's ruling in the FIFA case, but it also,
24 given the foundation that has already been laid about the
25 contents and the making of those contents, that it fits within

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1 -- comfortably within the Second Circuit decision in *Orena*,
2 which is at 32 F.3rd 704, which allows ledgers books of this
3 variety as admissible for the truth. It's not hearsay because
4 hearsay exception to the non-hearsay rule, something like
5 that. But basically the question that Mr. Price and I both
6 had I believe finds its soulmate in the old question of if a
7 tree falls in the woods and nobody hears it, does it make a
8 sound. And if a statement is made and nobody hears it other
9 than the maker, *Orena* says it is. So the objection is
10 overruled.

11 Are we otherwise ready?

12 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Gentlemen, we are going to try --
14 everybody is worried about the weather, think in terms of
15 between 5:00, 5:10.

16 MR. LAX: Very good, Your Honor. I will get to a
17 breaking point. Even if it's a little early, would you rather
18 that I stop rather than launch into something new?

19 THE COURT: Yes. Because then it will make us that
20 we've all had discussions and then counsel are working to get
21 us out of here.

22 MR. LAX: Very good.

23 (The jury enters the courtroom.)

24 THE COURT: Be seated, please.

25 Counsel will stipulate that the jury is present and

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1 properly seated.

2 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor.

3 MR. KOFFMANN: We do, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Counsel.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back. We are in the
6 homestretch. Again, we have been monitoring the weather.
7 Counsel and I have been making our plans. We are going to try
8 to find a logical place to land short of where we normally
9 would go. The roads remain clear. The conditions are pretty
10 much what you saw at lunch. It may take folks a little longer
11 to safely get home and for that reason is the reason we will
12 try to shorten it up.

13 Mr. Pere is back on the stand. Mr. Lax continues
14 his direct.

15 MR. LAX: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 The Government offers Government Exhibit 503-A-1.

17 MR. PRICE: Is that just that first page?

18 MR. LAX: Yes.

19 MR. PRICE: Objection noted. I understand the
20 Court's order.

21 THE COURT: And the objection is continued. The
22 exception is noted.

23 (Government's Exhibit 503-A-1 received in evidence.)

24 MR. LAX: May we pull that up, please, Ms.
25 Jefferson?

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1 Q Mr. Pere, can you see that on the screen?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What are we looking at?

4 A This is an entry I made on July 19th of 2016.

5 Q I'd like to direct your attention down to the bottom
6 where it says foil, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 3. Can you explain that
7 entry?

8 A Well, this was July of 2016, Nilsen and I were just
9 starting to lay the ground for the fuel oil contract and 2, 2,
10 3, 2, 2, 3, means two cargos one month, two cargos the next
11 one, three cargos the next one, and then the sequence would be
12 repeated over a period of four years. That meant that a total
13 of 21 million barrels of fuel oil would be delivered and that
14 would be together with a loan of \$300 million starting in
15 January of 2017.

16 And the last line, I said fees, honorarios, they
17 have asking 0.25, meaning 25 cents. At the bottom, the offer
18 I would accept would be 0.2, meaning 20 cents per barrel.

19 Q Above this entry, there's an entry for GLP. Do you see
20 that?

21 A Yes, I see it.

22 Q Can you explain that entry, please?

23 A Well, we talked so many times --

24 Q Who do you mean by "we"? I'm sorry to interrupt.

25 A Javier Aguilar, Nilsen Arias, Xavier Rodriguez, and

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1 myself.

2 We talked so many times about selling LPG, which in
3 this case -- in this page saying GLP, which is LPG in Spanish,
4 and yeah, it says 1.5 million metric tons to be delivered in
5 three years, and -- meaning 500,000 metric tons per year, with
6 the deliveries at the same time that the other company, the
7 other company that supplied LPG, Petredec deliver. This would
8 be together with a loan of \$200 million, and the fee would be
9 between \$4 and 6 per metric ton, asking price, again, and the
10 minimum fee would have to be between 3 and \$4 per metric ton.

11 Q Did that deal ever materialize?

12 A No.

13 MR. LAX: I'd like to show now just for the witness
14 and the parties Government Exhibit 508-A-1.

15 Q Do you recognize 508-A-1?

16 A Yes.

17 Q What is it?

18 A This is a page from my legal pad. That's why it doesn't
19 look much in order. Yes, it specifies the distribution that I
20 had in my mind at the beginning, the distribution of fees to
21 be received from that contract, and it was -- 25 cents times
22 nine cargos.

23 Q I'm sorry to interrupt, just because it's not in evidence
24 yet.

25 A Oh, okay.

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1 Q Is there a date on this page?

2 A No, there isn't.

3 Q Whose notes are these? Who wrote this?

4 A These are mine.

5 Q What is the approximate date of this entry?

6 A Sometime in 2016, mid--- I mean, second semester.

7 MR. LAX: The Government offers 508-A-1.

8 MR. PRICE: Subject to the existing objection,
9 nothing further.

10 THE COURT: And this is a page similar to the ones
11 in the notebook?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Same ruling, same exception noted.

14 MR. LAX: May we publish this, please.

15 THE COURT: You may publish. Received in evidence.

16 (Government's Exhibit 508-A-1 received in evidence.)

17 MR. LAX: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 Q All right. Let me first direct your attention to the top
19 left. Let's start with the first four lines.

20 A Uh-hum. The first line -- sorry.

21 The first line says Colo, mean Colorado. That's me.
22 11.5 cents. Then it says, on the second line, Gor, meaning
23 Gordo, Nilsen Arias, 11.5.

24 And then it says, on the third line, DH, meaning Del
25 Hierro, who is Xavier Rodriguez.

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1 On the fourth line, this is an O. Maybe I thought
2 about other. I cannot be sure of that.

3 And on the following line, where I have DH, it says
4 50, meaning 50,000 at signing for DH, Xavier Rodriguez.

5 And then 15,000 per month.

6

7 (Continued on next page.)

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1 (Continuing.)

2 BY MR. LAX:

3 Q What is the word next to 50?

4 A Firma, at signing.

5 Q And what does that refer to?

6 A To the success fee.

7 MR. LAX: Ms. Jefferson, can we now please pull
8 up, sort of the right-hand side of this page all the way
9 down, please, yeah.

10 Q Let's take this just sort of step by step.

11 Can you walk us through -- let's start with the
12 first three lines, ignoring the 342 up top.

13 A In the first line, it says 25 times 90 times 190,000.
14 It's a reference to \$0.25 times 90 cargos of 190,000 barrels
15 of crude oil.

16 So multiplying the \$0.25 or 0.25, times 90 times
17 190,000, we get 513,000, which is the success fee.

18 Q What's the line two lines below, three times 190 times
19 190?

20 A Again, the same calculation. I'm just saying that
21 there are three cargos of 190,000 barrels per month, but
22 there are 90 cargos in total.

23 Q And then minus 50,000?

24 A And then minus 50,000. Those are the 50,000 that I
25 mentioned in the earlier highlight you made.

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1 Q Which 50,000?

2 A The payments to Xavier Rodriguez as a success fee.

3 Q And then can you walk us through the remainder of this
4 entry?

5 A Okay. That gives -- that leaves, I'm sorry, a net of
6 463,000, that's after the deduction of 50,000 for Xavier
7 Rodriguez.

8 Then the following line, 463,000 again, minus
9 A-L-A-D, that's Aladino, which is the name for William
10 Vasconez, under Secretary of Public Credit under the
11 Ministry of Finance. 463 minus the 10,000 for William
12 Vasconez left at the end a net of 453,000 to be divided by
13 two. That's 226,500 for Nilsen Arias and the same amount
14 for me.

15 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, I'm sorry, can we approach
16 sidebar on an issue?

17 (Sidebar.)

18 (Continued on the following page.)

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Sidebar

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1 (Sidebar conference held on the record out of the
2 hearing of the jury.)

3 MR. PACKARD: Mr. Koffmann will be speaking.

4 THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Koffmann?

5 MR. KOFFMANN: Your Honor, we are back again on
6 the issues of the pretrial payment disclosures. It appears
7 as though they are eliciting testimony about a \$10,000
8 payment to William Vascone, which was not disclosed
9 pursuant to Your Honor's pretrial order, so we think that we
10 addressed this a week or two ago, we continue our objection.
11 We think that this testimony should be excluded and what has
12 been testified to should be stricken.

13 MR. LAX: So anticipating this, I think he's
14 testifying about the calculation of the fee, not actual
15 payments. My next question was going to be just that,
16 whether or not these were payments actually made or how he
17 was calculating the fee of payments to be made, to clarify
18 that, that very point.

19 I'm happy to add -- ask a leading question to that
20 effect to make that clear, but that -- it came out in
21 reverse order as planned, but I did intend to clarify that,
22 that very point.

23 MR. KOFFMANN: Well, Your Honor, I mean, that --

24 THE COURT: It's not a payment.

25 MR. KOFFMANN: It's not a payment, but, Your

Sidebar

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1 Honor, it really seems to evade the spirit of the order.

2 THE COURT: Okay. It's not there, you know, he
3 hasn't explained anything about the payments on this sheet
4 at this point. So it's fresh.

5 MR. KOFFMANN: Okay, well --

6 THE COURT: If the concrete was in, you could
7 break down the concrete, that's another story, but this is
8 fresh in his explanation of what those numbers are,
9 including the fact that it's not a payment.

10 MR. KOFFMANN: We understand Your Honor's ruling.
11 We just note our objection for the record.

12 THE COURT: Yes. Okay.

13 (Sidebar conference ends.)

14 (Continued on following page.)

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1 (In open court.)

2 MR. LAX: Can we pull up that exhibit one more
3 time, please?

4 BY MR. LAX:

5 Q Now, Mr. Pere, to be clear, these are payments -- well,
6 these are calculations that you had made about your fee; is
7 that right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Not -- not actual reflections of payments actually
10 made?

11 A No. I don't think so.

12 MR. LAX: For the witness and parties only,
13 Government Exhibit 503-A-2.

14 Q Mr. Pere, do you recognize Government Exhibit 503-A-2?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What is it?

17 A It's a page of one of my notebooks.

18 Q What's the date?

19 A January 23, 2017.

20 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government
21 Exhibit 503-A-2.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Price?

23 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, the initial objection and
24 I don't think there is a foundation as to what this is
25 beyond that it's in his notebook.

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1 Q Directing your attention to the second line, do you see
2 the second entry?

3 A Yes.

4 MR. LAX: I am happy to offer just that line.

5 Thank you, Ms. Jefferson, for reading my mind.

6 The Government offers this line of Government
7 Exhibit 503-A-2, so as redacted, we will prepare a redacted
8 version.

9 THE COURT: As redacted, Mr. Price?

10 MR. PRICE: And I have no objection, although I
11 don't read Spanish. So I have no objection, but I don't --
12 I can't know what it says, but I don't think I have an
13 objection.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 Q What does it relate to --

16 THE COURT: Then I think there is nothing to
17 overrule, that's what I think, so it's received.

18 MR. LAX: Not yet.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 (Government's Exhibit 503-A-2 received in
21 evidence.)

22 Q What does it relate to, sir?

23 A This is a note that says that we received 185,270
24 Euros. And I made that note to tell TexMex, Javier Aguilar,
25 that we had received that amount.

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1 MR. LAX: I lost track and I'm not sure if it's in
2 or not, but I will move it again for --

3 MR. PRICE: I have no objection.

4 MR. LAX: And then if we could just publish that
5 one line, please.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Price?

7 MR. PRICE: I have no objection to that.

8 THE COURT: Received in evidence without
9 objection.

10 You may publish.

11 (Exhibit published.)

12 Q All right. So I think you said earlier the date of
13 this entry was January 23, 2017?

14 A I believe so, yes.

15 Q And can you explain this entry, please?

16 A It's a note I made. I knew we had credit in our
17 account for 185,270, so I wanted to let Javier Aguilar know
18 that we had received that money.

19 Q And where it says TxMx, what is that a reference to?

20 A TxMx means TexMex, who refers to -- which refers to
21 Javier Aguilar.

22 Q And do you see the currency of this payment in here?

23 A Euros.

24 Q Where do you see that?

25 A EU, right before the 185.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 MR. LAX: All right. For the witness only,
2 please, Government Exhibit 515-A-2.

3 Q Do you see Government Exhibit 515-A-2?

4 A Yes, I see it.

5 Q Which notebook is this from?

6 A This is from the notebook in which I made the records
7 of either cash or transfers, let's say, payments, that I had
8 made to different people. And like I said before, in some
9 occasions, maybe I made -- not made. In some occasions, I
10 made notes of how payments were going to be distributed. So
11 necessarily, this book does not only show payments. Also
12 shows some other notes related to the distribution of
13 payments.

14 MR. LAX: There is a few pages of this. I will
15 flip through them, Mr. Price, so you can see.

16 A little bit slower, please. Let's just go to
17 page 2.

18 Q Another page from that notebook?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Page 3, another page from the notebook?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Four?

23 A Yes, another page.

24 Q And 5?

25 A Yes, another page.

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1 Q Do you see entries in there related to the fuel oil
2 deal?

3 A Yes.

4 MR. LAX: The Government offers Government
5 Exhibit 515-A-2.

6 THE COURT: Any objection?

7 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, if I may, because I don't
8 understand some of the language. I don't believe I have an
9 objection. If I could reserve an objection depending upon
10 what the witness says about it. My guess is I won't.

11 THE COURT: Okay. We'll find out.

12 Mr. Lax?

13 MR. LAX: May we please publish it?

14 THE COURT: Yes. It's in for the moment.

15 (Government's Exhibit 515-A-2 received in
16 evidence.)

17 (Exhibit published.)

18 Q So which notebook is this?

19 A This is the -- the notebook where I wrote down payments
20 that I made. Sort of a -- not a ledger, but just a record
21 of payments. And some of the notes related to the contracts
22 and the payments to different people.

23 Q All right. Are they all necessarily related to Vitol
24 or fuel oil?

25 A No, no. There are other things here.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Q Let me direct your attention to the very top left
2 entry.

3 A Yes.

4 Q What is that entry?

5 A This is an entry from March 17th of 2017. It says Del
6 Hierro, on top, meaning Xavier Rodriguez.

7 Q And that is the person depicted in Government
8 Exhibit 12?

9 A Yes, that's him.

10 And it says that 60,000 as success fee in relation
11 to the fuel oil Vitol contract were given to him in
12 Guayaquil, at Oro Verde, which is a hotel in Guayaquil.

13 Q Where do you see Guayaquil?

14 A It says right Oro Verde, it says G-Q-U-I-L, that's
15 short for Guayaquil.

16 Q Why did you make this entry in this ledger?

17 A To remember that Xavier Rodriguez had been paid his
18 share of the success fee.

19 MR. LAX: Let's turn to page 2 of this exhibit,
20 please.

21 Q The second entry dated February 10, 2018?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Can you explain that entry, please?

24 A Again, this is February 10, 2018. Del Hierro, meaning
25 Xavier Rodriguez, delivered 30,000, meaning that \$30,000

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1 were given to him in reference to January and February of
2 2017.

3 Then it says apparently Vitol anticipated \$0.03
4 after signing.

5 Q What does that mean?

6 A I'm not exactly sure what it means, because I'm making
7 a reference to the year before. I don't know if there's a
8 mistake in the -- in the date, but I'm mentioning that the
9 \$0.03 that were paid as success fee, mentioning the word
10 anticipo, here, which many times I used in the same meaning
11 as I used success fee. And I'm just writing apparently
12 \$0.03 after the signing. But what I am -- what I can tell
13 you for sure is that \$30,000 were given to Xavier Rodriguez
14 in regards to January and February of 2017.

15 Q Can you explain the math, how that works for January
16 and February 2017?

17 A Well, there were three cargos per month. And that
18 means that there were six cargos per month in -- during
19 January and February of 2017. Six cargos per month times
20 5,000, which is what I paid Xavier Rodriguez per cargo,
21 gives us a total of \$30,000.

22 MR. LAX: Let's turn, now, please, to page 3 of
23 the same exhibit.

24 Q There is an entry on -- the third entry, there, yeah,
25 April 30th, 2018.

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 Would you please explain that entry?

2 A Again, this is another payment to Xavier Rodriguez,
3 \$30,000 given to him in Guayaquil for March and April of
4 2017.

5 Q Where do you see Guayaquil?

6 A In -- right after -- I mean, in the second line. GYE,
7 which is the airport code for Guayaquil.

8 Q Page 4, please, the top right entry?

9 A It's from January of 2019. Again, in regards to
10 payments to Xavier Rodriguez. And it says that he has been
11 paid \$30,000 in excess for the fuel oil deal. That he was
12 paid in cash in Guayaquil on November 20th of 2018.

13 Q Where do you see the fuel oil deal?

14 A It says, after -- it says, on the second line: Mas en
15 tema, F-O-I-L, meaning fuel oil.

16 Q And you said in excess, what did you mean by that?

17 A That means that I paid him \$30,000 for those months by
18 mistake because I had not received payment from Vitol for
19 those two months when I made the payment to Xavier
20 Rodriguez.

21 Q Now, this payment in November 2018, was Xavier
22 Rodriguez still in the ministry at that point?

23 A I'm not sure.

24 Q For all the payments that we just discussed, the 60,
25 30, 30, 30, how were those made to Xavier Rodriguez?

A. Pere - Direct - Lax

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1 A They were made in cash.

2 Q The manner in which you testified about earlier?

3 A Yes.

4 MR. LAX: Your Honor, we are approaching 5:00, and
5 I have hit the end of a module, trying to adhere to the
6 Court's request to end on the earlier side, I would request
7 that now would be a good time.

8 THE COURT: Okay, but before we do, let's -- where
9 are we with the status of this document?

10 MR. PRICE: Your Honor, I have no objection to the
11 portions that pertain to these payments coming in. I think
12 everything else should be redacted.

13 THE COURT: And that's more the question -- my
14 next question to Mr. Lax.

15 I assume that's the basis on which you are
16 offering the document?

17 MR. LAX: Yes, Your Honor. There are a few other
18 portions that I might come back to. So what I propose is I
19 will prepare a redacted version and send it to defense
20 counsel tonight and hopefully we can reach some agreement.

21 THE COURT: Yes. As indicated, there are some
22 things that don't even relate to the fuel oil contract in
23 here.

24 MR. LAX: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

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1 So with that, that buttons that up, and counsel
2 will confer after we excuse the jury.

3 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that's going to
4 bring us to the end of our proceedings today. Again, we
5 appreciate your patience and attentiveness and certainly the
6 sacrifice and we share your concern that we all get home
7 safely tonight.

8 While we are doing that, we can reflect on the
9 things, the admonitions that we have to continue to remember
10 because they are important. Don't discuss the case amongst
11 yourselves or with anyone else. Continue to keep an open
12 mind. Again, there's no homework, no investigation about
13 any of the subject matter, personalities or issues related
14 to this trial, whether electronically or some old-fashioned
15 method.

16 We remain on radio silence, no communication by
17 any means about even the fact that you are a juror coming to
18 Brooklyn, much less anything that relates to the case. To
19 the extent in that broad brush of social media and regular
20 media, there should be any accounts of this case, you are to
21 totally tune it out, disregard it, don't read it, don't
22 listen to it, don't look at it. And, again, I encourage you
23 throughout the trial to try to tune out reports about any
24 legal proceedings anywhere for fear that you may hear or see
25 something in that account that will confuse you about what

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1 your responsibilities are in this case.

2 So with that, we will break for the evening. I am
3 going to ask you to come back, hopefully, on a better
4 weather day tomorrow to the central jury room. Try to get
5 there no later than a quarter to 10:00. And we will start
6 as soon thereafter as we can.

7 We bid you a very pleasant and more, perhaps,
8 importantly, a very safe evening in your travels. I look
9 forward to seeing you tomorrow. Have a pleasant evening.

10 (Jury exits.)

11 (Witness steps down.)

12 THE COURT: So we will break. Counsel will pass
13 things back and forth through the evening. The admonitions
14 about being careful apply to all of us, so come back in one
15 piece tomorrow and we will proceed on with the case.

16 Thank you all.

17

18 (Matter adjourned to January 17, 2024, 10:00 a.m.)

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1 I N D E X

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3 WITNESS3 PAGE

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5 **ANTONIO PERE**

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DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continuing) BY MR. LAX

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